SS comics

21

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

藤田和日郎

Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

からくりサーカス 21 藤田和日郎

SS comics

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SS comics

「最古の四人との激闘で、次々と倒れていくしろがねたち。彼らの希望はあの男の存在。散っていったしろがねたちの思いを背負い、怒りと哀しみの戦士・鳴海がついに復活!!」

そして鳴海が目指すのは……玉座に座りしフランシーヌ人形!!ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇死闘も佳境の第21巻であります。

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

お今東西とはそのジャンルでおぼえてるのを夕々く言えばいい!

そえね ゲーム… by うふふたかづかう

てめーらはよ——

さて、今まで離れて回っていた歯車がだんだんと運動しようとしています。
自分も、頭の歯車を何とか手なずけて、頑張ってこの大きなからくりを完成させようとしますってば。(文末に、かなりの力こぶが感じられるのは気のせいです。)

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ　トントン。
さあさ皆様、戦いに次ぐ戦いの、からくり編最終幕もついにトリネタとなって参りました。トリネタとは、最後にやってくる一番の見もののことを言いまする。
ナルミを始め、団員が力一杯に演じますれば、
「からくりサーカス」第21巻、鷹揚の御見物を願います!

●AD／伊波光司 ●ロゴ&カバーデザイン／益子典子+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ ●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

21
藤田和日郎
からくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri

★前巻までのあらすじ★

いよいよ「最古の四人」としろがね達の最終決戦開始。

鳴海の存在によって団結の心を見せるしろがね達は、鳴海を援護。しかし、フランシーヌ人形を目前に力尽き、倒れてしまう。

そこへ駆けつけたルシールは、フランシーヌ人形そっくりの糸繰り人形で自動人形を圧倒。その人形の命令に「最古の四人」は動けなくなる。

そして、憎むべきドットーレとの二百年に及ぶ因縁の対決に、死を覚悟で臨んだルシールは、みごとな相打ちで最期を遂げる。

ところが、瀕死の状態の鳴海は、手術中に体が石化し始め、生命の危機におちいるが…!?

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■藤田和日郎■

FEEL THE HEAT OF LES MAINS BLANCHES IMMACULEÉS!

2

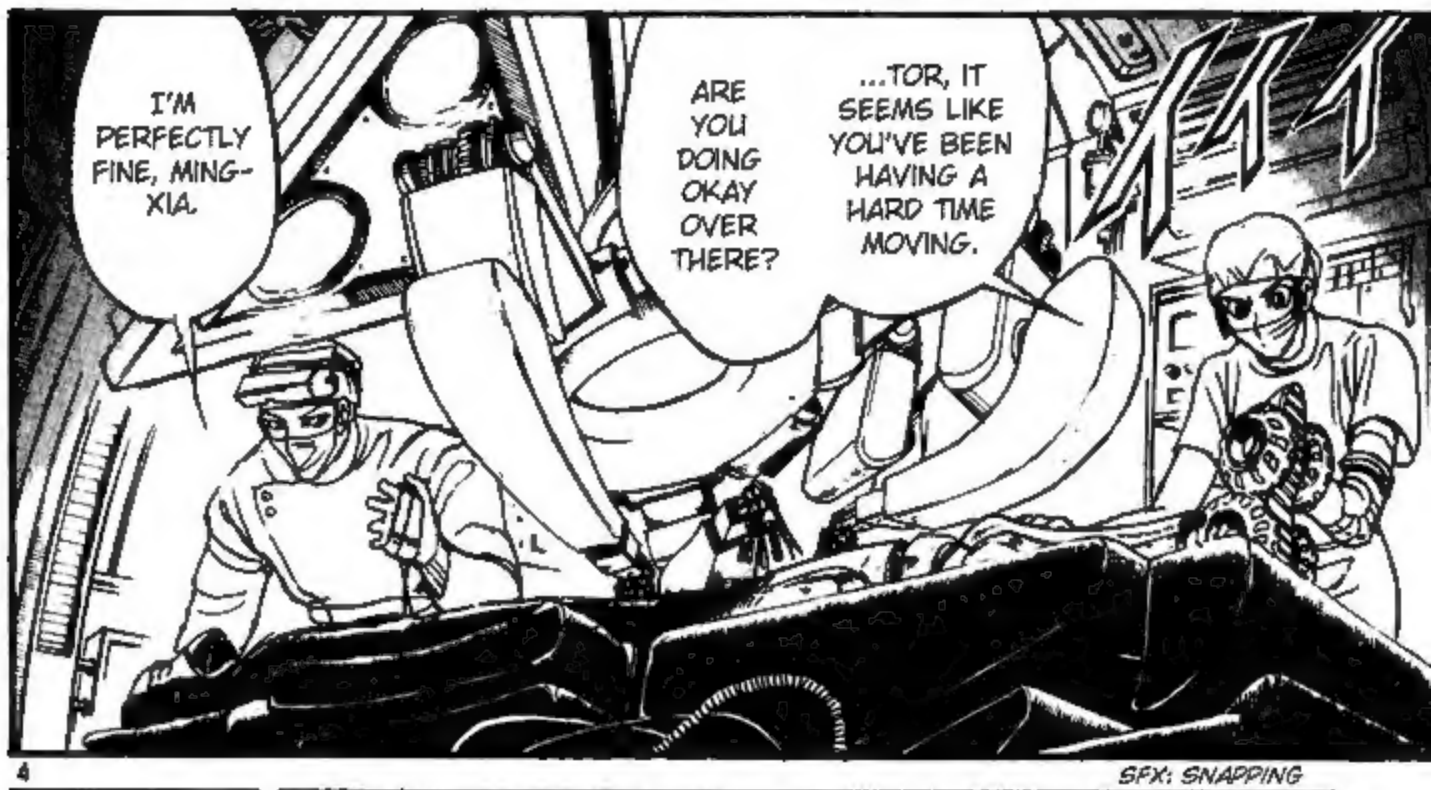
!
MAMBA! TOWER OF THE POISON FANGS!

I WILL LAY YOU TO REST HERE AND NOW, COLUMBINE.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY, TIMBAVATI!

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE AN AWFULLY POINTLESS WAY FOR YOU TO DIE.
KYAHAHA! THIS IS A VERY NICE HUG.
THE TOWER OF THE POISON FANGS ?!
TIM-BAVATI, DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!

PLEASE HURRY... THERE... ISN'T MUCH TIME.
OKAY ...
MING-XIA, I'M GOING TO BEGIN THE NEURAL MODIFICA-TION. PASS ME THAT ...
THE JOINT UNITS ARE BONDED NOW ...
ピッ
KH ...!
SAVE NARUMI. YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN DO IT.



4

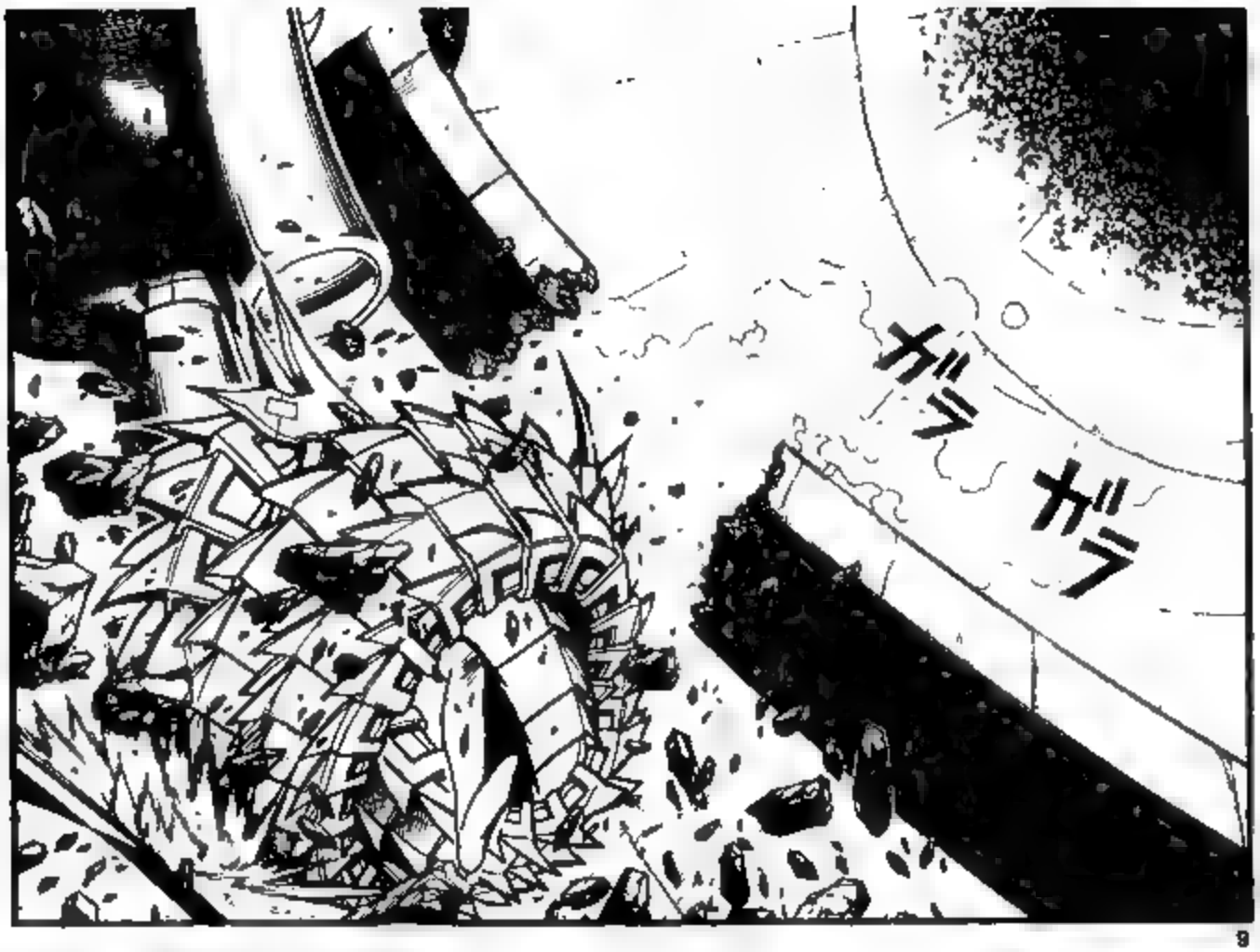
SFX: SNAPPING

WELL, DONE, TIMBAVATI. I'LL DESTROY THE DOLL FRANCINE!
NO, YOU WON'T, DAMN YOU ...!

SFX: WHOOSH; BOOM
SHE JUMPED ALONG WITH MAMBA AND ME ?!
AHAHA! AMAZING, NO? SHALL I ASTOUND YOU EVEN FURTHER?
TCH...! I CAN'T PERFORM TOWER OF THE POISON FANGS LIKE THIS!

GWOOOH!
ISN'T THE POWER OF MY HANDS JUST STUNNING ...?!
7
WH-WHAT?!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING THROUGH, GEO-O-ORGE!!

OHOHOHO! NOW NO ONE CAN REACH LADY FRANCINE!
GAAAHH ...! COLUM-BINE ...!
KH ...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ガラ

9

YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO ATTACK ME, TIMBAVATI!

KH... MAMBA... WON'T BE ABLE TO SINK ITS FANGS IN...
COLUM-BINE IS... INCREDIBLY POWERFUL ...

ALL I HAVE TO DO ...
IS LIFT MY HAND A FEW MORE INCHES ...!

10

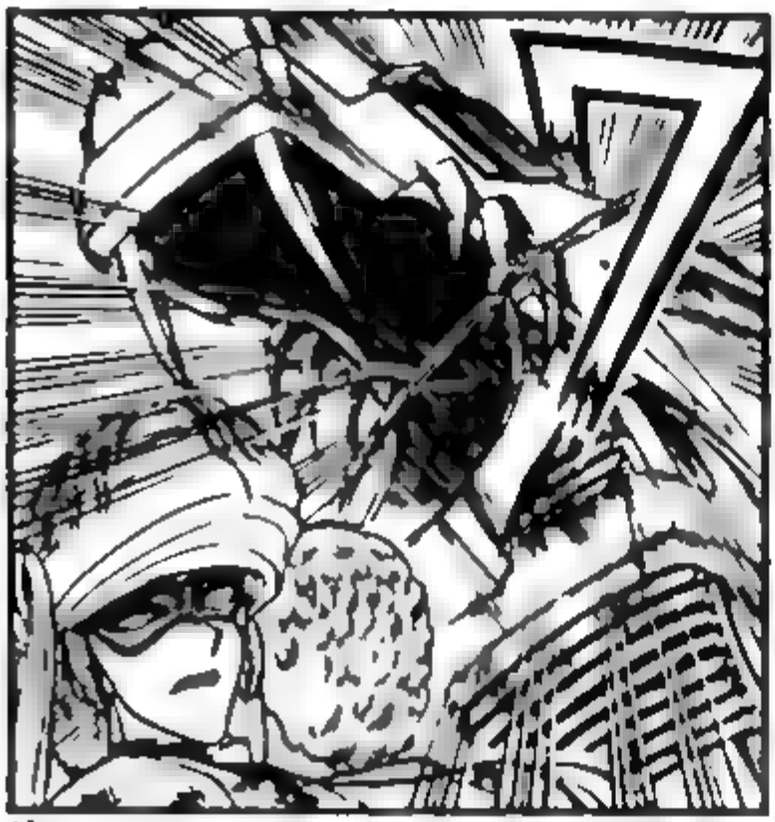
SFX: CLANNG

SFX: -TIGHTEN-

GO TO THE EGG! GO TO NARUMI!
LE... LET GO, ROCKEN-FIELD.
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE.
EVEN SO...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HIM!
I DON'T WANT TO.
THAT HUMANS DON'T NEED A REASON TO SAY NO.
TELL ME WHY, ROCKEN-FIELD!
WHY ?!
THIS IS... SOMETHING THAT NARUMI HIMSELF TAUGHT ME.

I'M GOING TO WATCH.

DO IT, TIMBA-VATI! THE TOWER OF THE POISON FANGS!

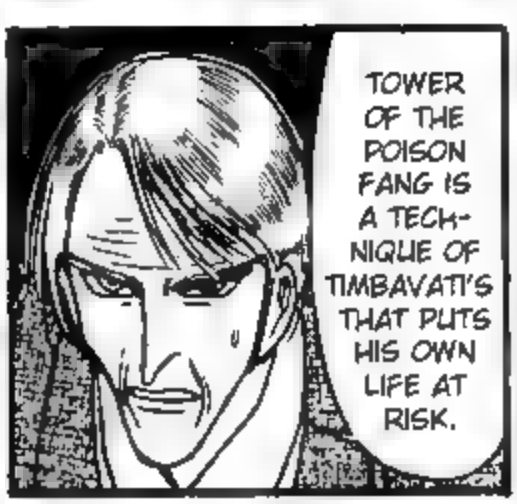


THANK YOU.

HMPH! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING?

AND USES A POWERFUL PUMP TO SUCK OUT BLOOD LACED WITH AQUA VITAE.
FIRST, MAMBA PIERCES HIS BODY WITH ITS FANGS ...

WHAT?
THINK AGAIN, COLUM-BINE.


TOWER OF THE POISON FANG IS A TECH-NIQUE OF TIMBAVATI'S THAT PUTS HIS OWN LIFE AT RISK.

13
AHAHAHA! REALLY, NOW?! YOU TOOK YOUR OWN MARIONETTE'S ATTACK...!
YOU UTTER DUNCE !

キリシイ
FOR YOU AUTOMATA, IT IS POISON!
AQUA VITAE NEUTRALIZES THE VERY PSEUDO-EXISTENCE THAT MAKES YOU CREATURES SO POWERFUL.
THEN ...
YOU ATTACKED YOURSELF ON PURPOSE ...
MAMBA IS GOING TO DO WITH IT...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK ...

IT'S... ONLY LOGICAL ...
NO... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO...?!

NO! IF THIS HITS ME ...!!
MY... MY BODY STILL...
WON'T DO WHAT I WANT ...!

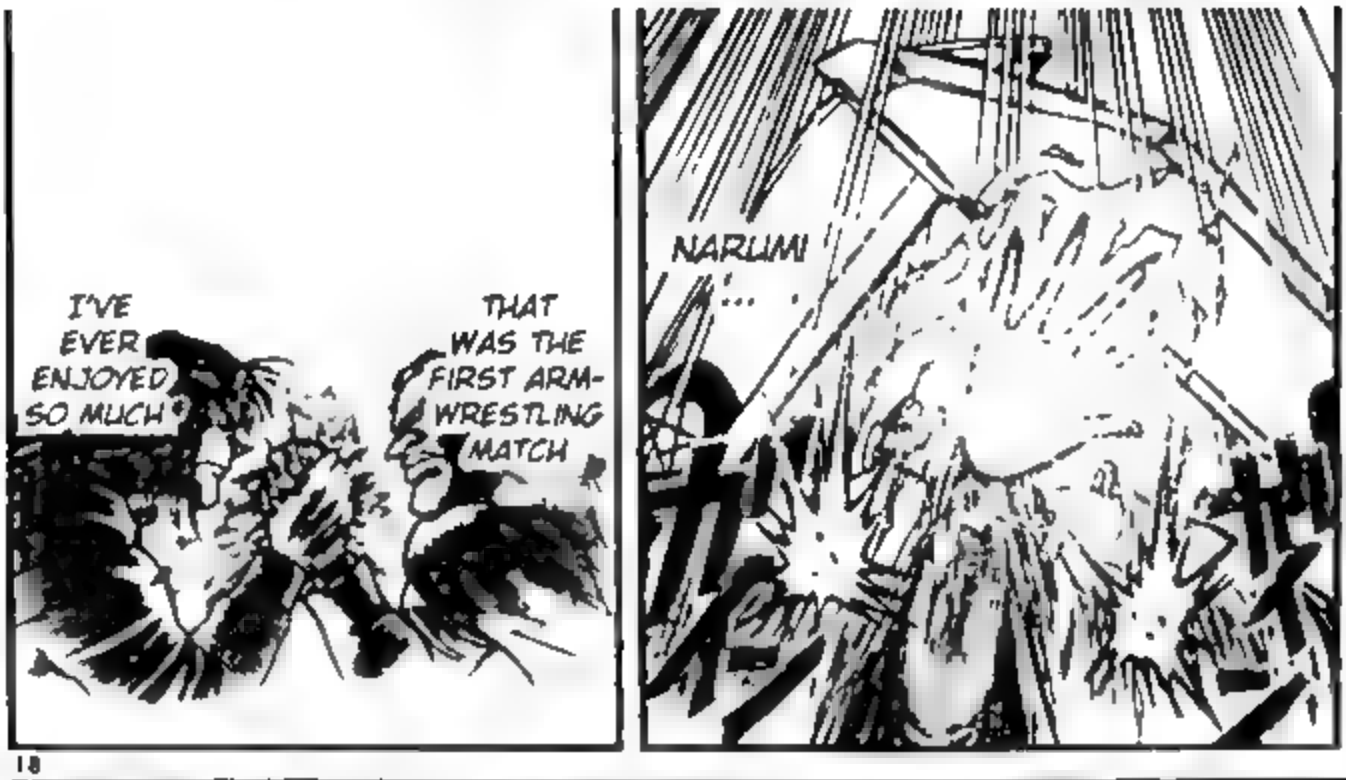
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
THE POISON'S ... ENTERING MY BODYYY ...!

BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
IT'S ... GOING IN.
AH... AHH...! AAHHH ...

ドドド

GYAAAHH! LET GO! LET ME GO!!
LET ME GO! LET ME GO!

TIMBA-
VATI...
KH...
I CAN'T
RESTRAIN
HER...
17
.....
TAKE
MAMBA TO
NARUMI
FOR ME
...
THAT'S...
ENOUGH.
ROCKEN-
FIELD...
EE...
EEE...
EE...
THIS IS
FAREWELL.


I'VE EVER ENJOYED SO MUCH
THAT WAS THE FIRST ARM-WRESTLING MATCH
NARUMI ...

NEXT TIME, I WON'T LOSE.

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

NOTES:
I've gone back and changed a few lines in chapter 177 to match better with the way they're echoed in this chapter

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

第42幕 9時52分

Act 42 9:52

NOOOOO! THERE'S POISON INSIDE ME...!!
BLOOD LACED WITH THE AQUA VITAE THAT NEUTRALIZES YOUR PSEUDO-EXISTENCE.
SHIROGANE BLOOD HAS ENTERED YOUR BODY, COLUMBINE.
MY FACE ...
MY BODYYY ...!!
YOU ARE FINISHED.
TIMBAVATI SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIFE FOR HIS FINAL MOVE.

I WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS!
I AM COLUMBINE!
NO...! IMPOSSIBLE!
3
TIME TO SHOW OFF THOSE FAMOUS LEGS OF YOURS!
IT'S TIME FOR AN AERIAL FIGHT, PENTAGONA KNOCKER. YOUR SPECIALTY.

DO YOU THINK THIS... THIS TRIFLE ...
IS ENOUGH TO DE-FEAT ME...?!
COME ON! JUST TRY AND TAKE ME ...!!

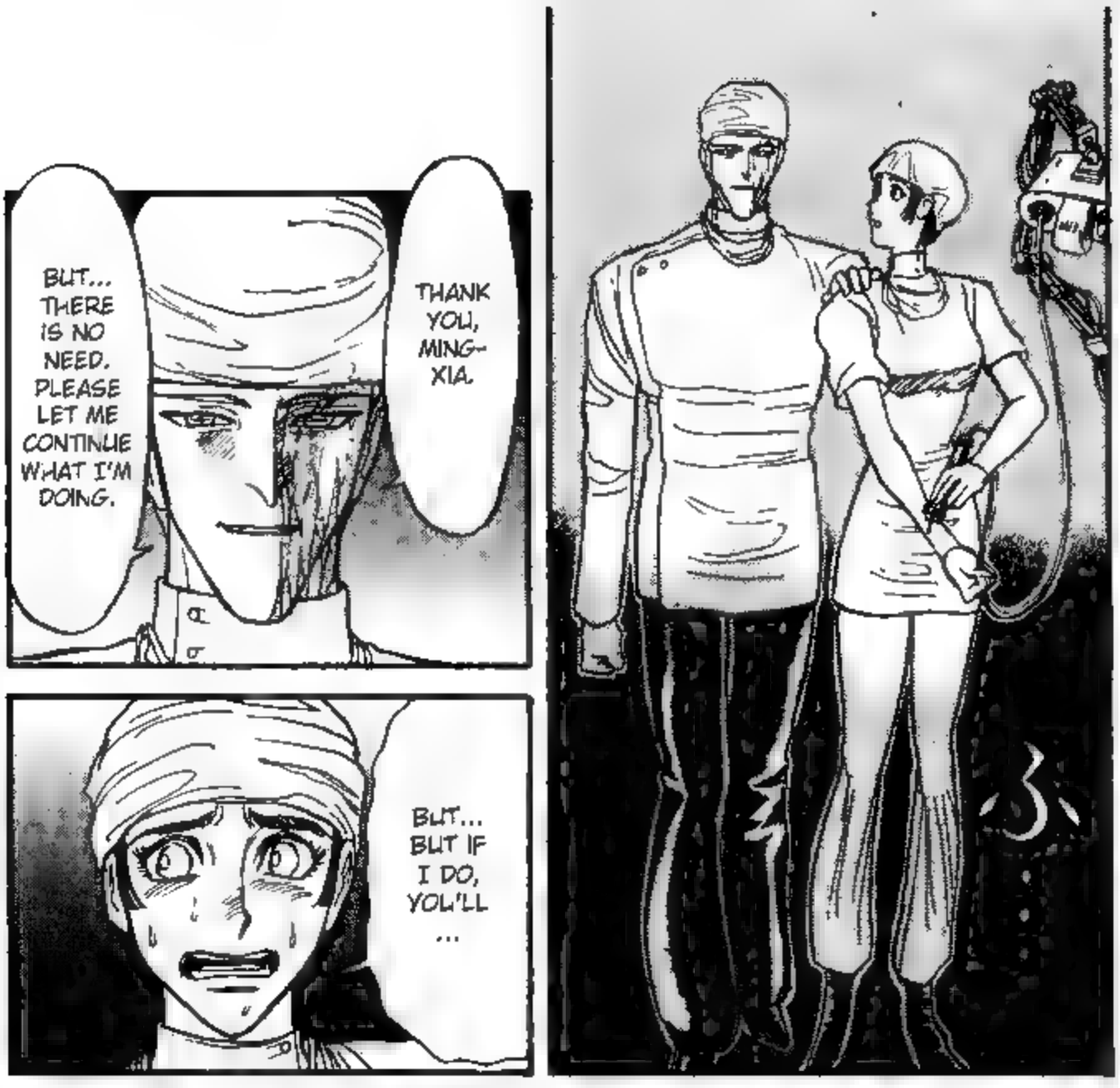
EE-EEEE-EE!
TOR-NA-DO!
PAIN ...
PEN-TAGONA KNOCK-ER...

THE SKELETAL REINFORCEMENT UNIT IS FULLY INSTALLED AT THE PELVIC REGION.

T...
TOR!
I'M INSERTING THE ASSEMBLER THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF THE SMALL-SCALE REPAIRS. IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED TO RE-FORM THE TISSUE AND REINFORCE THE SKELETON...
EVEN AFTER THE SUTURES HAVE BEEN CLOSED UP.
SFX: CRACKING
7
TOR, YOU'RE ...!!
DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, MING-XIA.

SFX: CRACKING, CRUMBLING

8


THANK YOU, MING-XIA.
BUT... THERE IS NO NEED. PLEASE LET ME CONTINUE WHAT I'M DOING.
BUT... BUT IF I DO, YOU'LL ...

IT WAS NINETY YEARS AGO ...
THAT I FIRST MET THE DOLL FRANCINE.
INST
SFX: BEEPING

I LOOKED UPON HER ...
AND FOUND HER UNACCOUNT-ABLY, IRRA-TIONALLY BEAUTIFUL ...
EVEN THROUGH THE PAINS OF ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

I BELIEVED I COULD ATONE FOR MY SIN IF I DEDICATED MYSELF TO DESTROYING THEM.
SO I BECAME A SHIRO-GANE...
I COULD NOT FORGIVE MYSELF FOR THAT.
FOR FINDING BEAUTY, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A SINGLE MOMENT, IN ONE OF THE AUTOMATA WHO SPREAD CALAMITY AND SUFFERING TO HUMANITY.
YET MY ONLY AIM IN COMING HERE WAS TO DESTROY THE AUTOMATA.
I HAD BEEN A MEDICAL STUDENT, AND LATER I BECAME A DOCTOR...

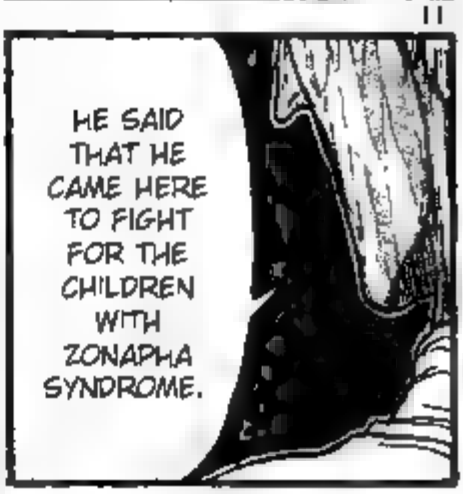
BUT, MING-XIA...
TOR, THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR YOU TO BE TALKING ABOUT THIS.
FOUND HER LOVELY TO LOOK UPON.
THE MAN I ONCE WAS ...
I HAVE FINALLY MET HER AGAIN.
AND NOW ...

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
I SEE IN HER NONE OF THE BEAUTY THAT I ONCE SAW.

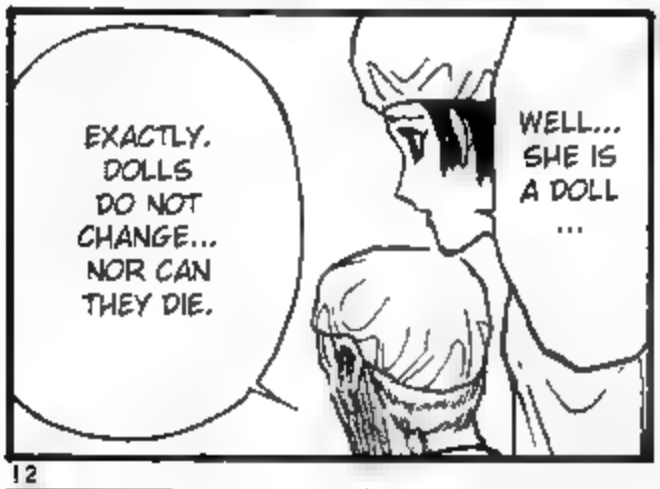
IT'S BECAUSE I MET NARUMI.
TOR, YOU HAVE TO—

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES ...
THAT HE CAME HERE TO FIGHT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING AND NEAR DEATH...

.....


HE SAID THAT HE CAME HERE TO FIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

WHEN THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR SOMEONE ELSE...
HUMAN BEINGS CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH ...

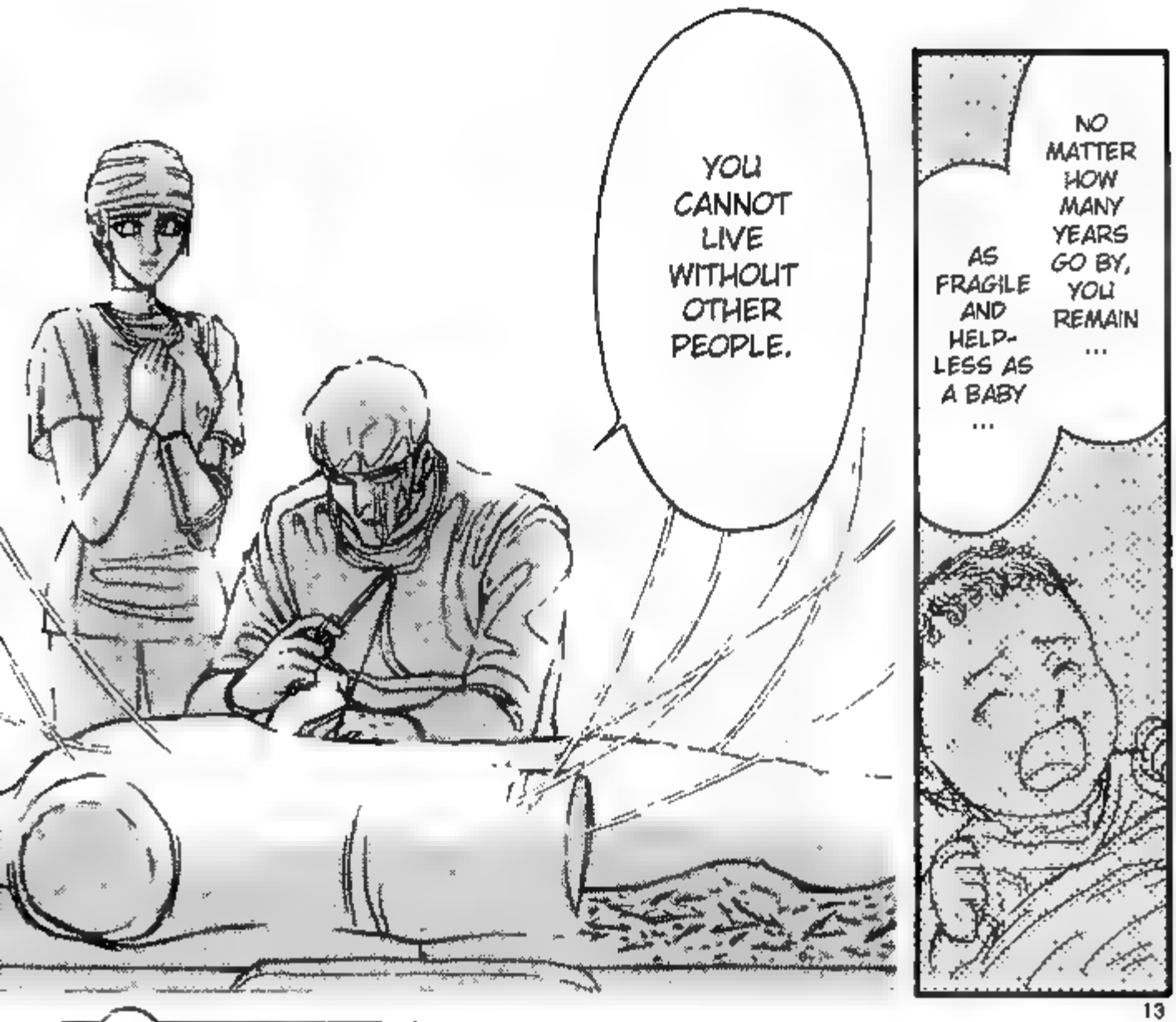

EXACTLY. DOLLS DO NOT CHANGE... NOR CAN THEY DIE.
WELL... SHE IS A DOLL ...

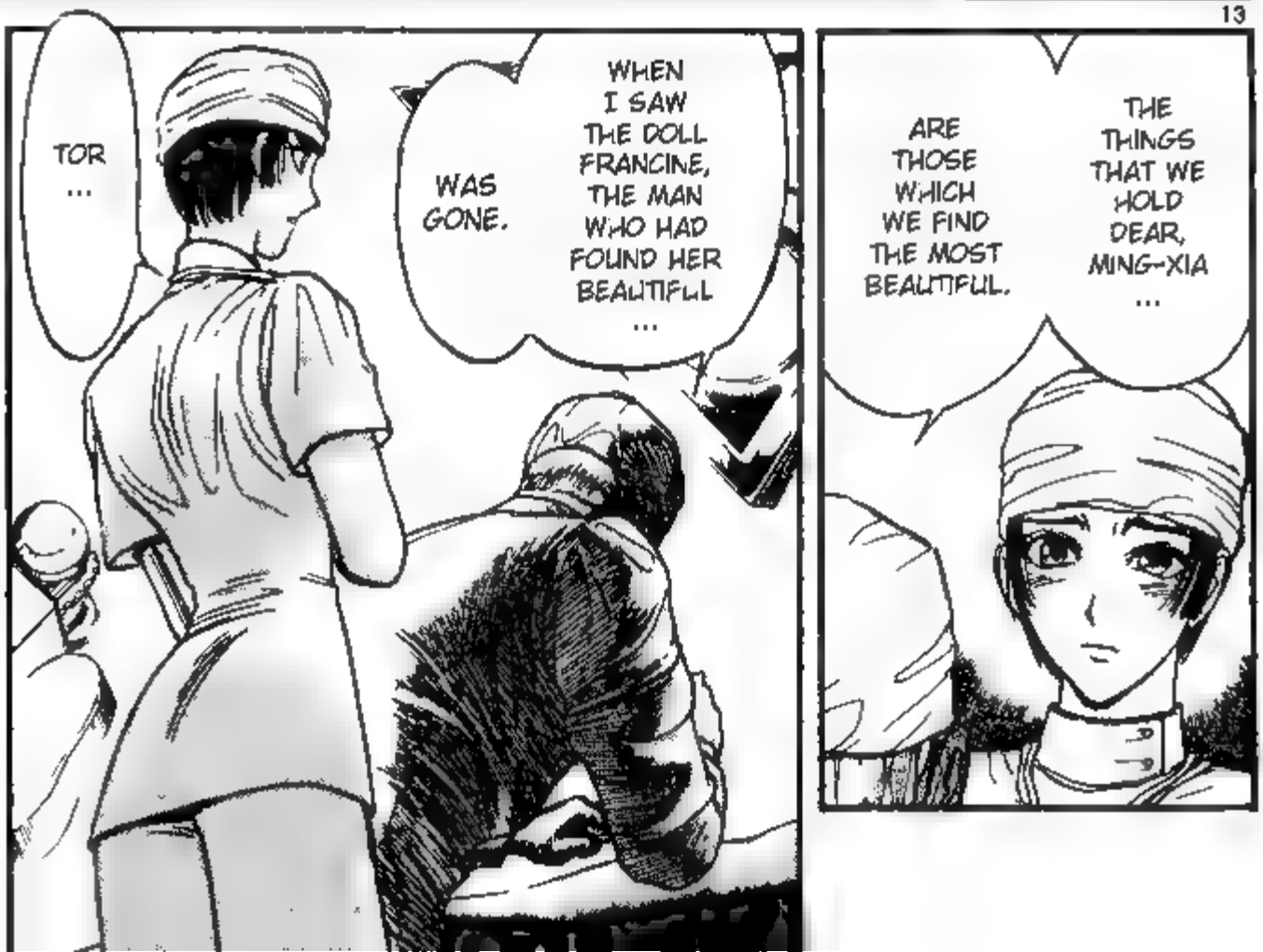
MING-XIA, THE DOLL FRANCINE HAS NOT CHANGED IN THE SLIGHTEST SINCE I SAW HER LAST.
AND NOW HE HIMSELF IS NEAR DEATH.

12

A HUMAN LIFE IS SUCH A PRECIOUS THING... ISN'T IT?
YES ...

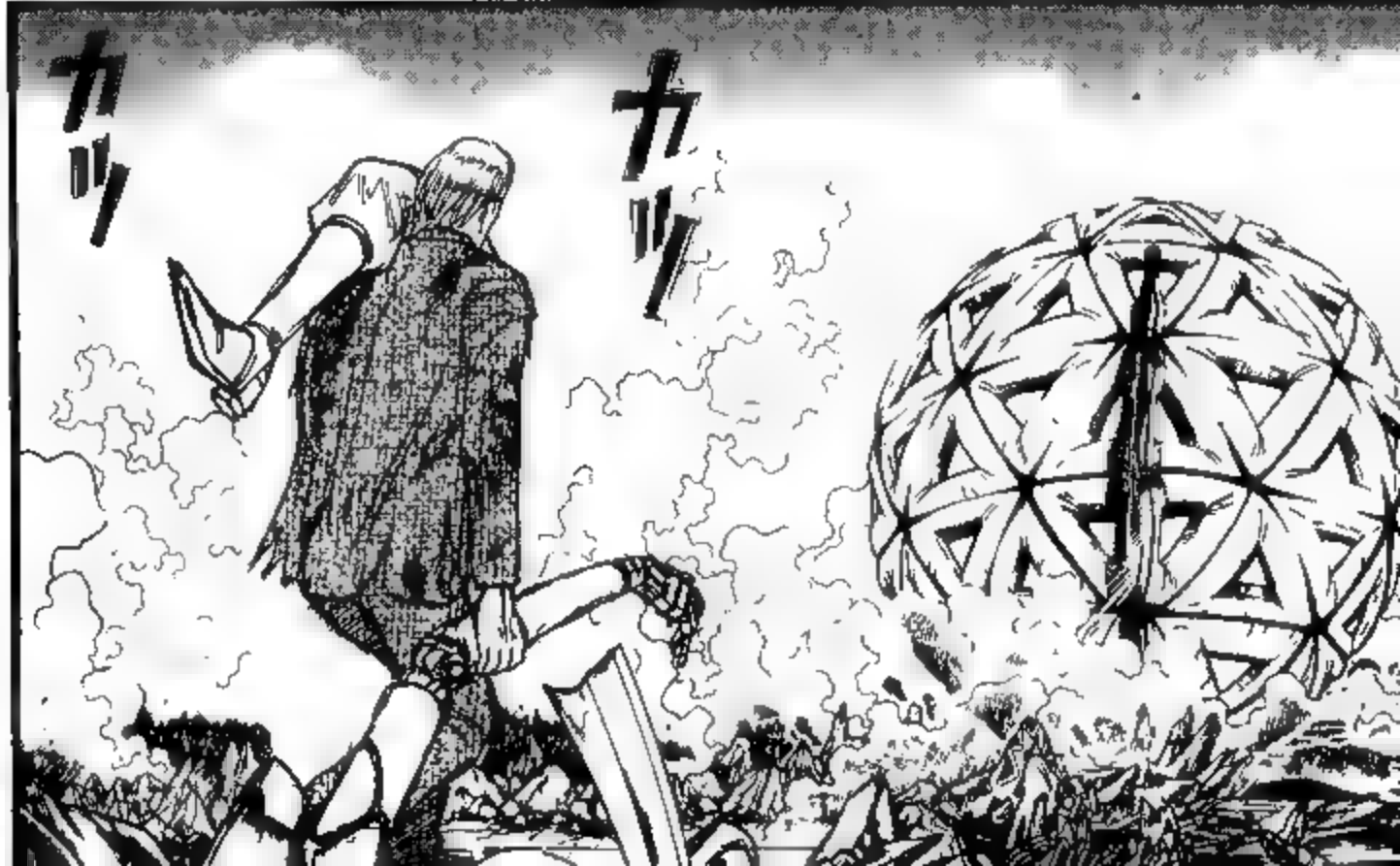
BUT HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT.
THIS MAN... WILL DIE IF I DO NOT TREAT HIM.


YOU CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS GO BY, YOU REMAIN ...
AS FRAGILE AND HELP-LESS AS A BABY ...


TOR ...
WHEN I SAW THE DOLL FRANCINE, THE MAN WHO HAD FOUND HER BEAUTIFUL ...
WAS GONE.
THE THINGS THAT WE HOLD DEAR, MING-XIA ...
ARE THOSE WHICH WE FIND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL.

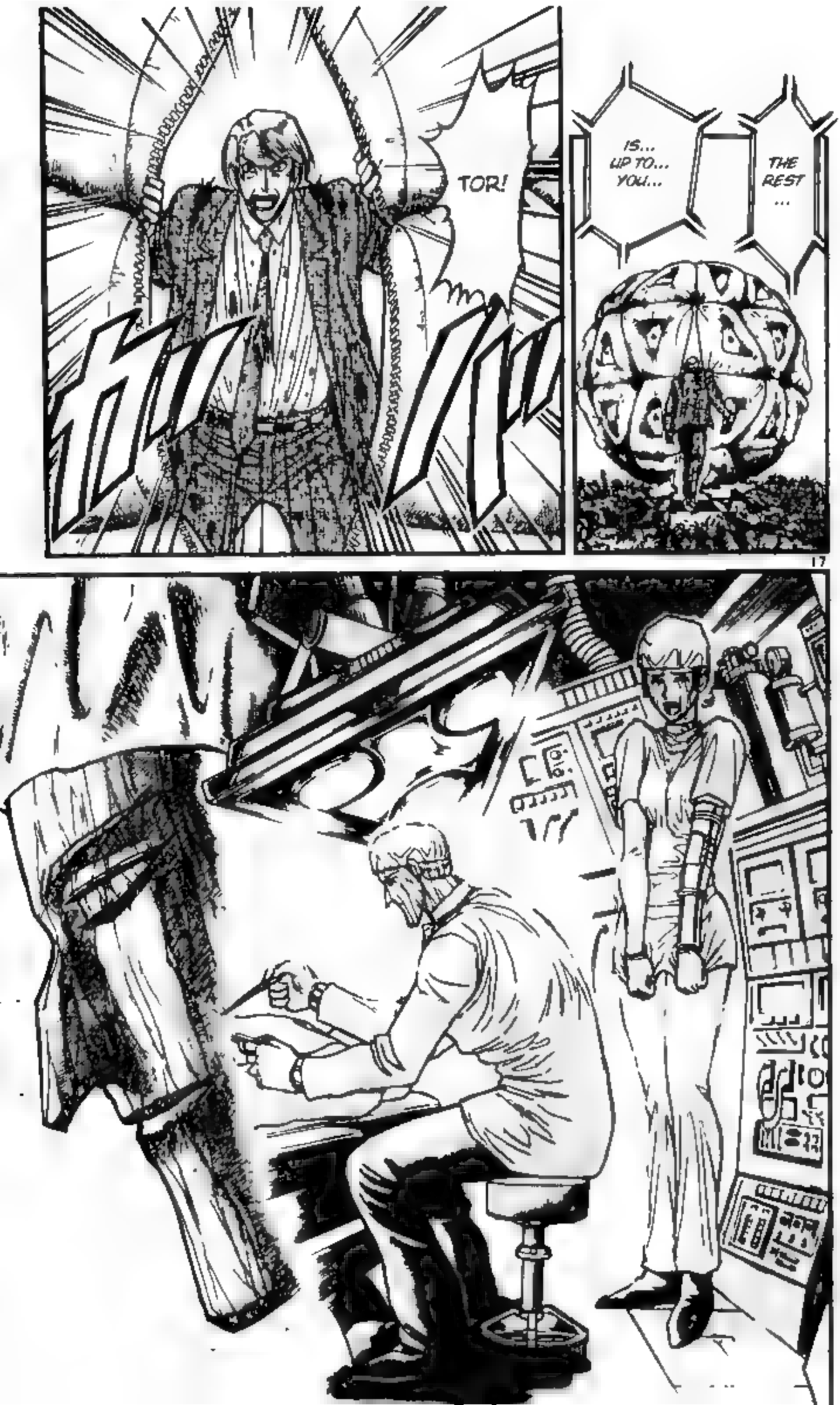
IT WAS A FAR MORE BEAUTIFUL SIGHT THAN THAT DOLL.
I HAD SEEN A HUMAN SHEDDING BLOOD FOR THE WEAK, STANDING TALL THOUGH HE WAS IN AGONY ...

LET ME DO ALL I CAN, TO THE VERY END.
SO I BEG YOU, MING-XIA, LET ME STAY LIKE THIS...

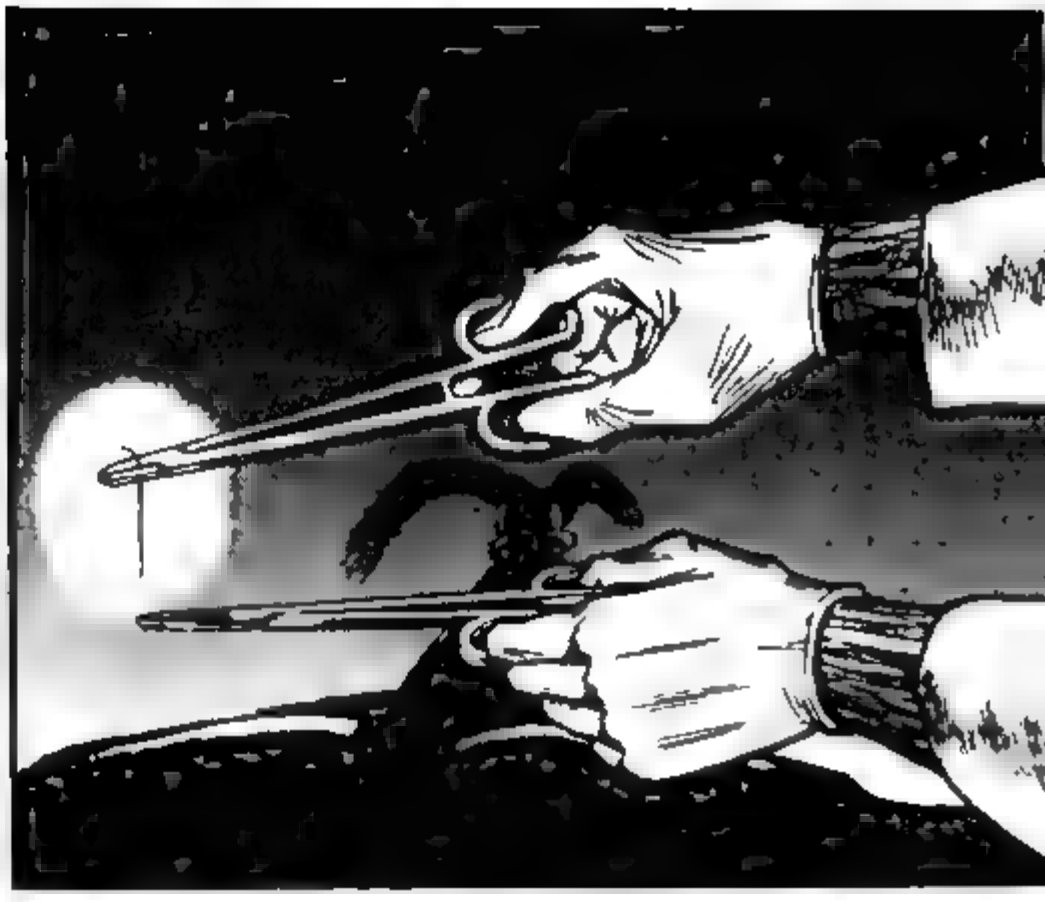


THIS ONE PROCE-DURE ...
LET ME FINISH ...
...ALL RIGHT... I UNDER-STAND.
THIS SUTURE ...
I JUST HAVE TO CLOSE...
SFX: CRUNCH
15
PLEASE... JUST ONE STITCH...
MOVE!
KH...
SFX: CREAKING, SNAPPING

YOU ALL STARTED OUT ACTING LIKE YOU WEREN'T HUMAN BEINGS... YOU PUT UP THIS FRONT ...
YOU SHIROGANE... ARE SUCH IDIOTS...
JUST ONE LAST STITCH ...
YOU'RE ALL SO STUPID ...
16
THAT YOU WERE HUMAN ALL ALONG.
YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE IN THE END...
WHAT'S THAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
...UP... TO YOU.
WHAT IS IT, TOR?
ROCKEN-FIELD...


TOR!
IS... UP TO... YOU...
THE REST ...

TOR
...



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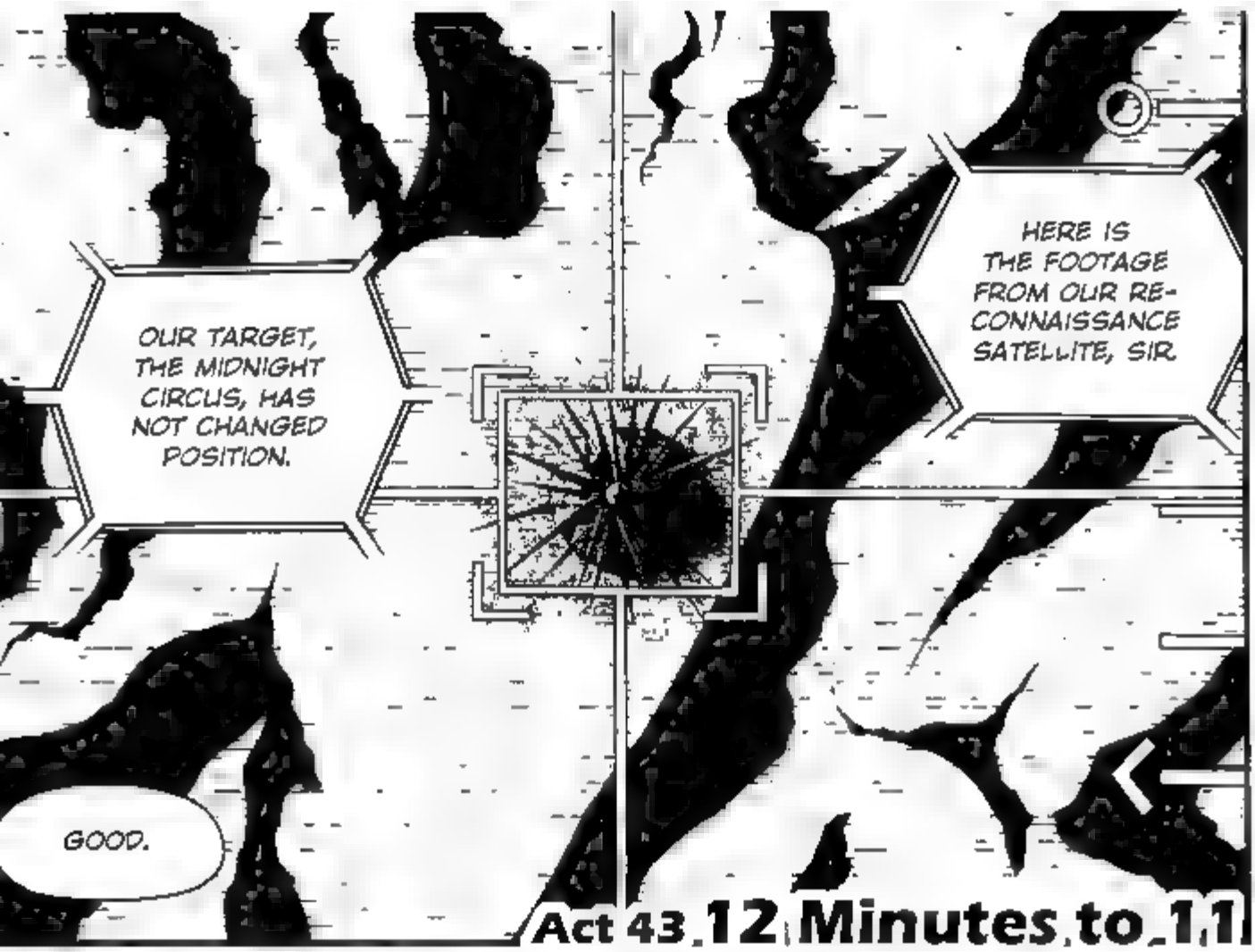
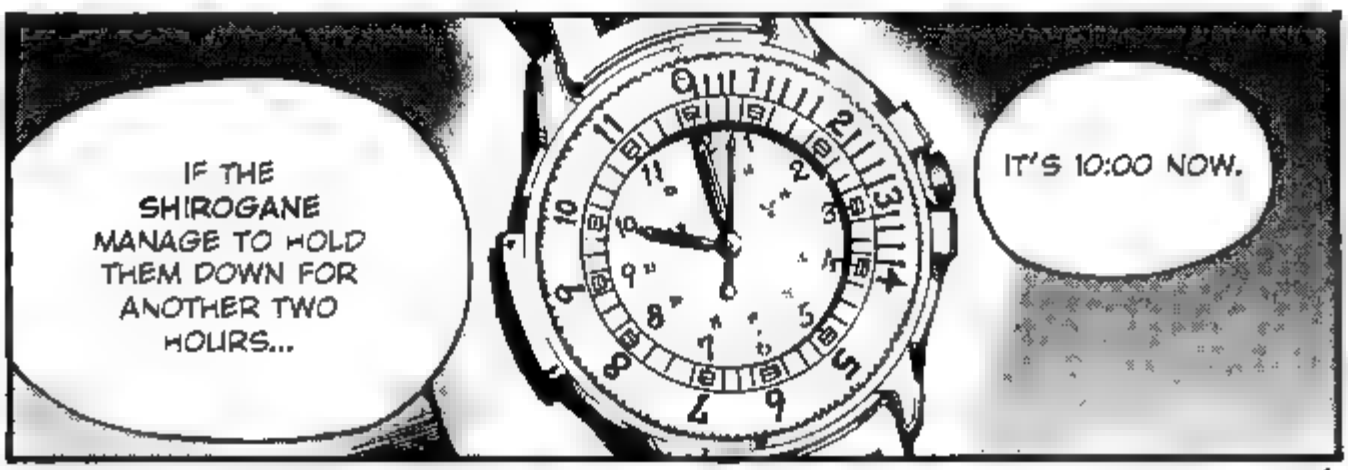

OUR TARGET, THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS, HAS NOT CHANGED POSITION.
HERE IS THE FOOTAGE FROM OUR RE-CONNAISSANCE SATELLITE, SIR.
GOOD.

Act 43 12 Minutes to 1.1



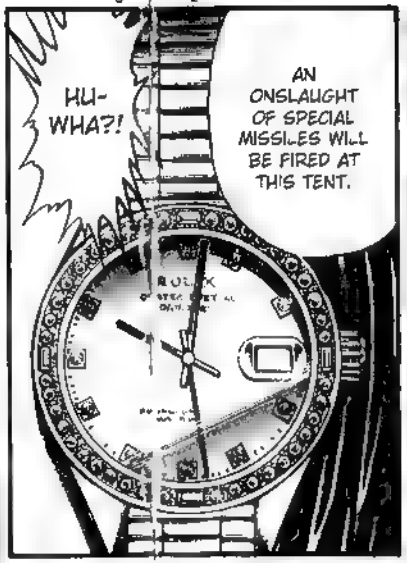
第43幕
11時12分まで

OVER THE ACCURSED AUTOMATA...

フルメタル

THAT'S THE FIRST I'M HEARIN' OF THIS!
300 MISSILES IN ALL WILL BE FIRED UPWARD IN WAVES FROM SUBMARINES LOCATED IN THE GULF OF GUINEA AND THE MEDI-TERRANEAN SEA.

3



2

WELL, YES... THAT HAS BEEN THE PLAN ALL ALONG.
SO UNLESS WE GET OUR BUTTS OUTTA HERE BY 12, IT'S UP WE ALL GO TO THE BIG PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW IN THE SKY?!
5
4
TOR...
I'M SORRY.
SIIIIIGH
BOY OH BOY, HAVE I GOT SOME CHOICE WORDS FOR THAT GEORGE FELLA.
LITTLE LATE FOR APOLOGIES NOW...!
...HOW GOES IT...
AR-LEC-CHINO ...?
I AM... ALMOST... THERE... PANTALONE.

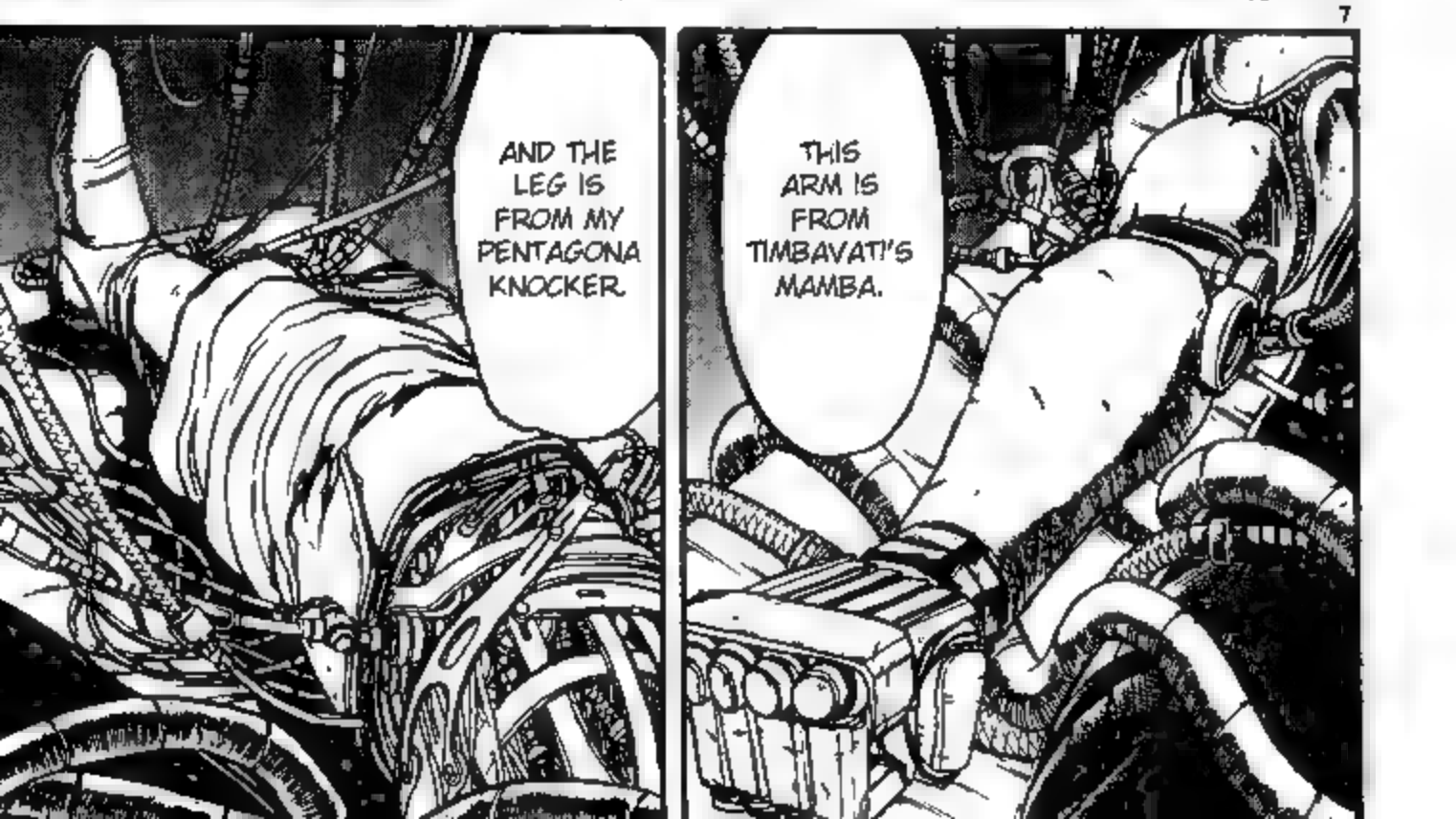
ONE OR THE OTHER OF US MUST REGAIN THE POWER OF MOVEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
COLUMBINE... IS OUT OF COMMISSION NOW...
hah
hah

LADY FRANCINE WILL BE EXPOSED TO THE HUMANS' ATTACK!
IF WE DELAY FOR TOO LONG...
WE... HAVE SOME TIME REMAI-NING, BUT...
IT IS 10:00 NOW.

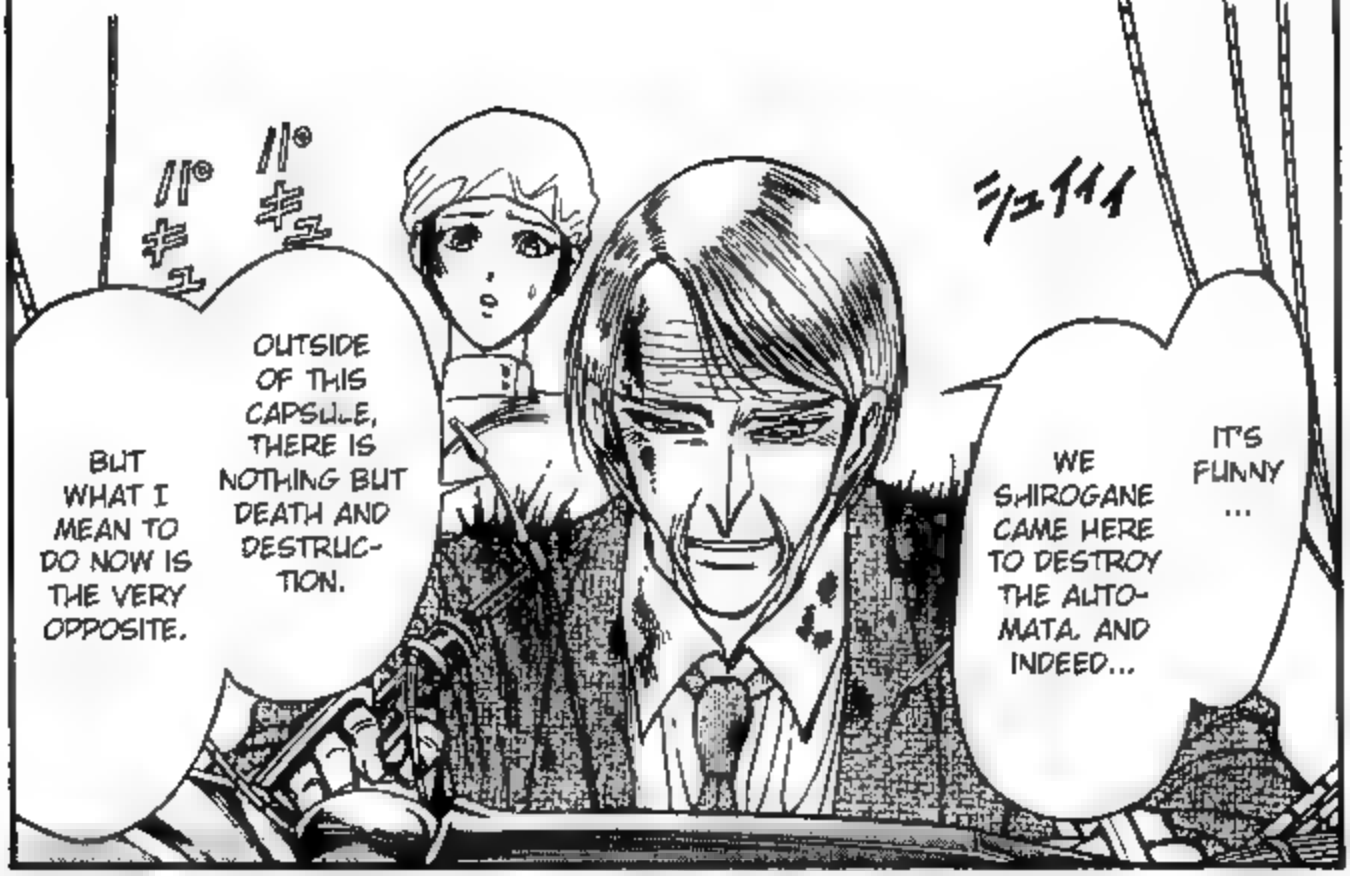
DO YOU WISH TO REPEAT DOTTORE'S MISTAKE, ARLEC-CHINO?!

... IF... IF WE ONLY ...
LADY FRAN-CINE ...?
HUSH!

B-BUT... IF THE DOLLS REMAIN UNABLE TO MOVE ...
FOR TWO MORE HOURS... FUFU. THEY'LL BE ANNI-HILATED!
ONE AND ALL!
SHE MELTED MY LEGS ...
AND DESTROYED THE STAIRS LEADING TO THE DOLL FRANCINE.
DAMN THAT COLUM-BINE...!


AND THE LEG IS FROM MY PENTAGONA KNOCKER.
THIS ARM IS FROM TIMBAVATI'S MAMBA.

TOR LAID THE GROUND-WORK FOR ME.
カチャ
I'LL TAKE OVER NARUMI'S SURGERY FROM HERE.
SUR-GERY ...?
HIS "SUR-GERY" ...? ROCK-EN-FIELD ...
THIS ISN'T EVEN MING-HAI ANY-MORE !!
NOT WITH THESE .. THESE MARIONETTE LIMBS THAT WERE BUILT FOR COMBAT...
...IT'S TRUE THAT NARUMI MAY RESENT US FOR THIS.
BUT... RIGHT NOW, THERE IS NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.


IT'S FUNNY ...
WE SHIROGANE CAME HERE TO DESTROY THE AUTOMATA. AND INDEED...
OUTSIDE OF THIS CAPSULE, THERE IS NOTHING BUT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.
BUT WHAT I MEAN TO DO NOW IS THE VERY OPPOSITE.

.....

REMEMBERING THAT HE WAS A HUMAN DOCTOR...
I AM SURE THAT TOR DIED HAPPY.

NARUMI WILL HAVE TO GIVE US HIS OWN OPINION AFTER THE FACT.

I... WOULD LIKE TO DO THE SAME.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, MINGXIA.

I... OF COURSE I WANT MING-HAI TO LIVE, TOO...
BUT... BUT... THIS IS JUST SO...
MING-XIA! HOW IS MR. NARUMI ?!
MING-XIA, FATIMA, BOTH OF YOU LEND ME A HAND.

HMPH... SURE HAS GOTTEN QUIET.
GUESS THOSE LOWER-GRADE AUTOMATA GAVE UP.
...YOU'VE GIVEN UP AWFULLY QUICKLY AS WELL, ASHIHANA.
I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A THUG LIKE YOU TO MAKE MUCH MORE OF AN UNSIGHTLY SCENE OVER THIS.
After you hit me as hard as you could ..
HAH... WELL, THERE'S JUST AN HOUR AND A HALF LEFT, RIGHT?

YOU ARE WORTH-LESS TO THE BITTER END.
OHH, I SHOULDA SPENT MORE TIME WITH THE LADIES. THAT KNIFE THROWER, OR MAYBE THE SINGER...
AFTER WHICH I'D FIND MYSELF WANDERIN' ALONE THROUGH THE SAHARA DESERT. ...YEAH, THAT AIN'T HAPPENIN'.
I'D HAFTA CRAWL MY WAY UP OUTTA THAT BIG HOLE THING, THEN GET MYSELF AWAY FROM THE BUSINESS END OF 300 MISSILES...
I'M OPEN TO SUG-GESTIONS, IF YA GOT ANY BETTER IDEAS.
YOU'RE A PUPPET USER! YOU MIGHT TAKE THIS CHANCE TO DESTROY THE DOLL FRANCINE ...
OR EVEN TO ATTACK PANTA-LONE...
I WAS ONLY WAITING... FOR MY LEGS TO RECOVER ...
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! I AM AN OUTSIDE PARTY HERE, BUDDY!
Only gave ya a hand just now 'cause yer life was on the line
DO YER OWN DIRTY WORK!
you are just
TCH. THAT IS JUST WHAT I MEAN TO DO.

ORRR Y'COULD JUST WAIT FOR THE MISSILES TO GET HERE... YOU'RE SO SERIOUS IT ALMOST HURTS.
I'LL TAKE OUT PANTALONE OR ARLEC-CHINO...
EVEN IF I HAVE TO DO IT ALONE...

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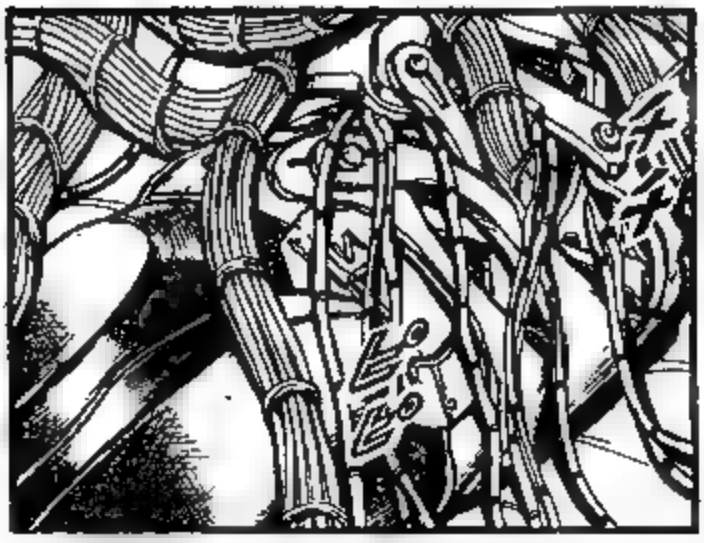
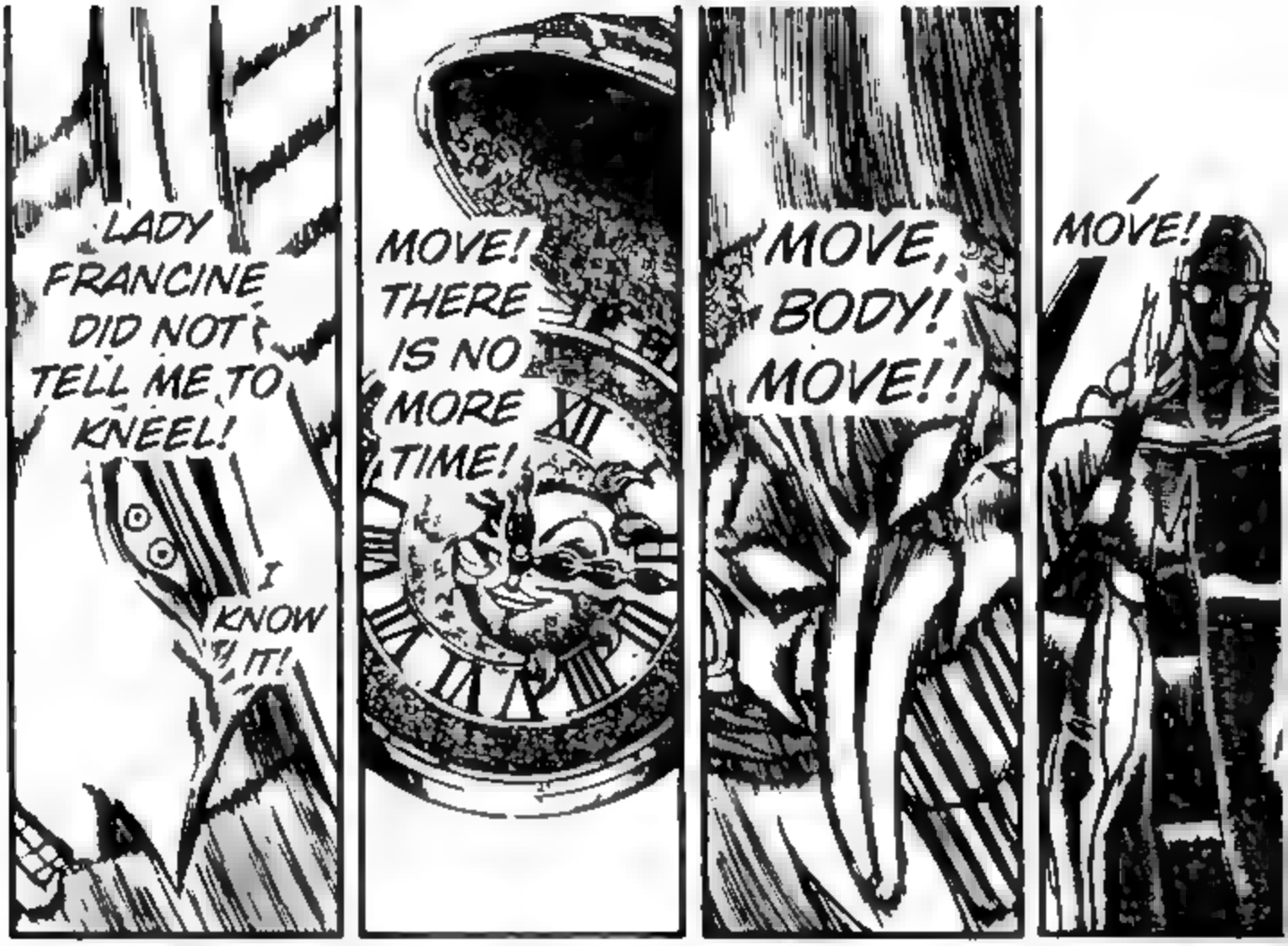


TEM-PERATURE AND BLOOD PRESSURE ARE RE-TURNING TO NOR-MAL.
AND WHAT DOES THE MONITOR SAY, MING-X.A?

THE ARTIFICAL CELLS ARE BEGINNING THEIR WORK.
THE NEURAL CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. HOW'S THE ARM DOING, FATIMA?

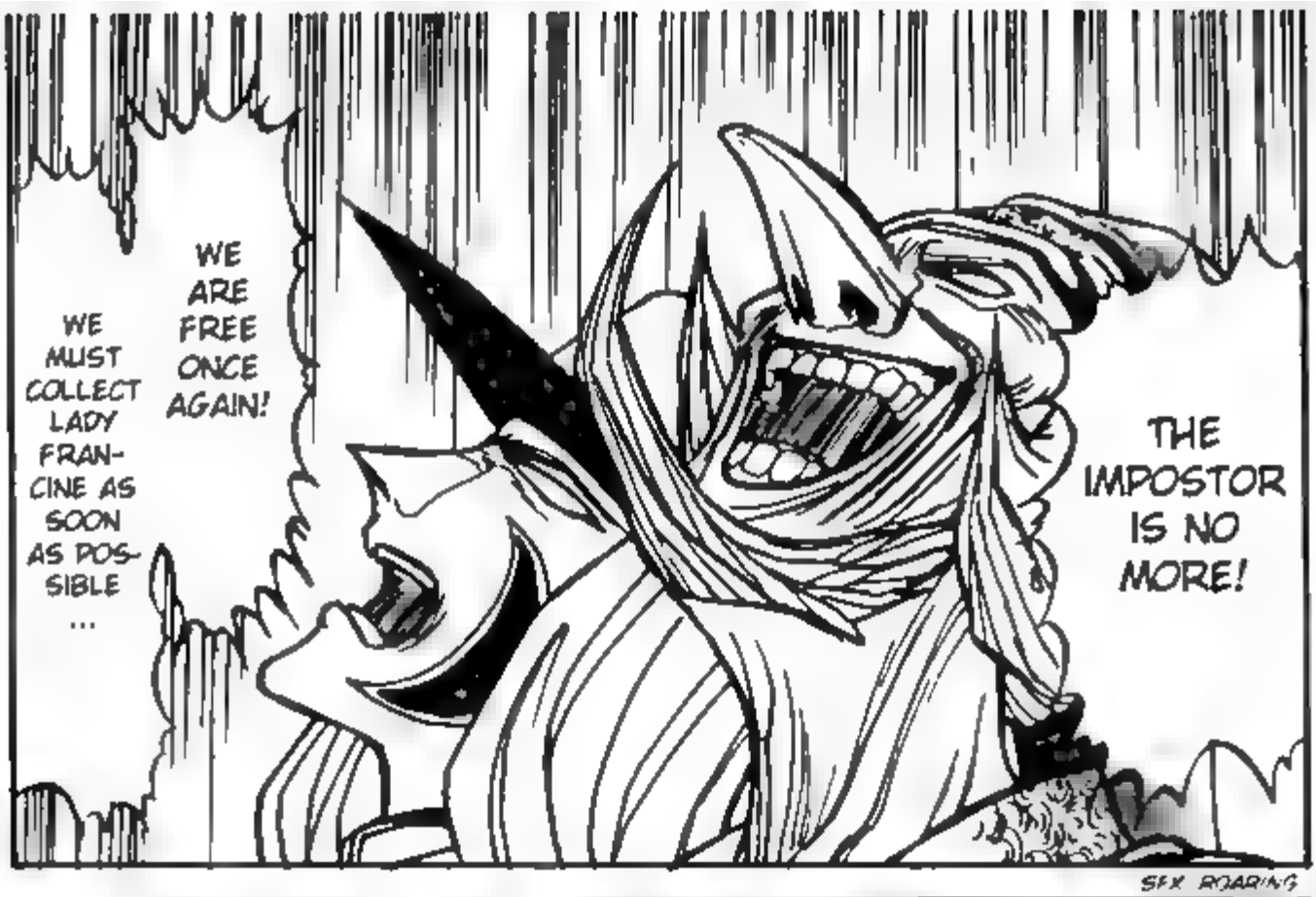
THIS IS PRETTY WEIRD, I GUESS. BUT YOU'D BETTER THANK US IN THE NEXT WORLD...
MING-HAI.
ピ
ピ
ピ
AND THAT'LL BE IT FOR THE BOTH OF US.
BUT EVERYONE'S WORKING SO HARD TO BRING YOU BACK.
THOSE MISSILES'LL BE HERE PRETTY SOON.
WE ARE DOING THIS IN THE HOPES THAT YOU TWO WILL LIVE, YOU KNOW...
13
WE HAVE TO HURRY... HAVE TO MOVE!
EVEN A MORTAL SHIROGANE IS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING US WHILE WE ARE IMMOBILE.
GRR... IT'S THE SHIROGANE-O!
ギル ギル ギル
...I DON'T THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE AT THIS POINT. BUT THANK YOU, ROCKENFIELD. IT'S NICE TO HEAR.


LADY FRANCINE DID NOT TELL ME TO KNEEL!
I KNOW IT!
MOVE! THERE IS NO MORE TIME!
XII
MOVE, BODY! MOVE!!
MOVE!

IS NOT LADY FRAN-CINE!
NO!! THIS ...
NO!
KNEEL.

ARE THEY MOVING ?!
ARLEC-CHINO AND PANTA-LONE ...
IT IS NOT!!
THIS "IS NOT" LADY FRAN-CINE!

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!



SFX: ROARING

SFX: RUMBLE

THE ESCAPE

SO THAT'S HOW YOU PLAN TO ESCAPE WITH FRANCINE, YOU DAMNED AUTOMATA?!
I SEE... THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

WHA.. WHAT IS THAT?!

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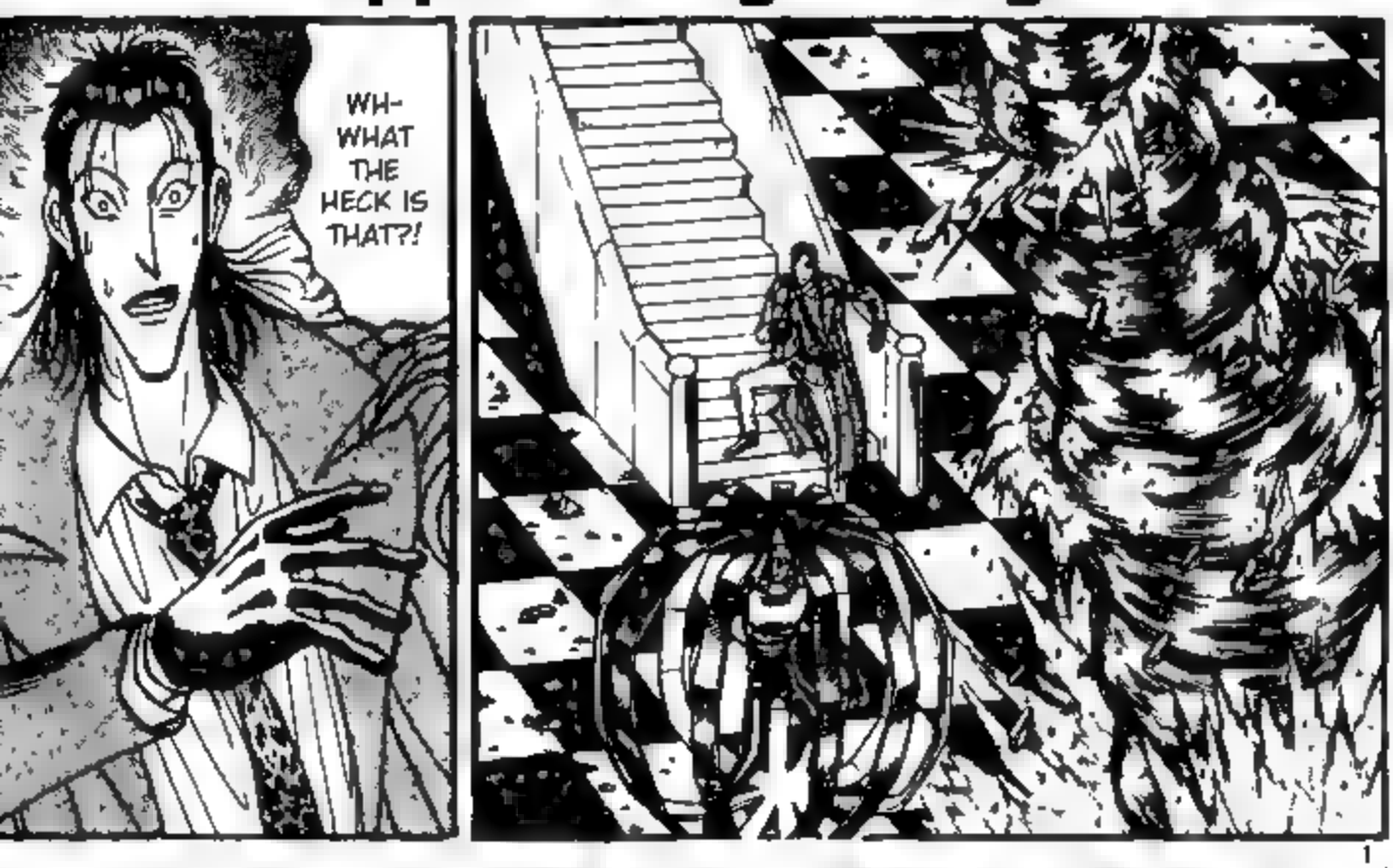
Act 44 Approaching Midnight



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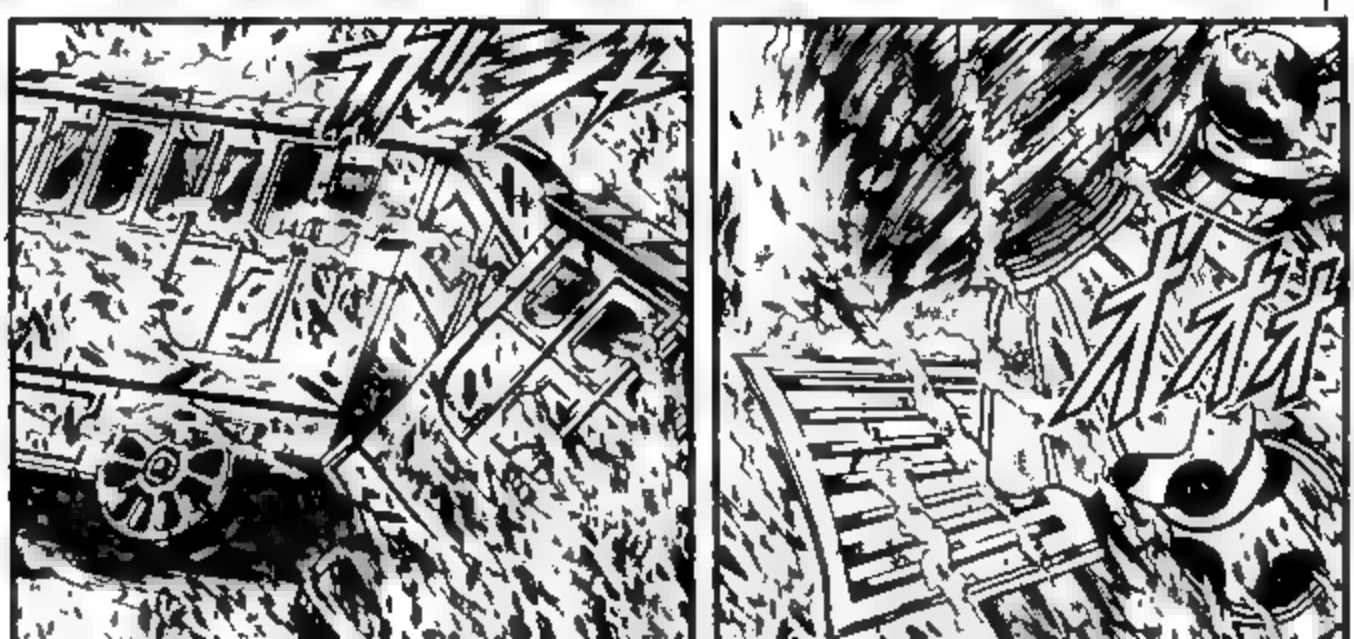
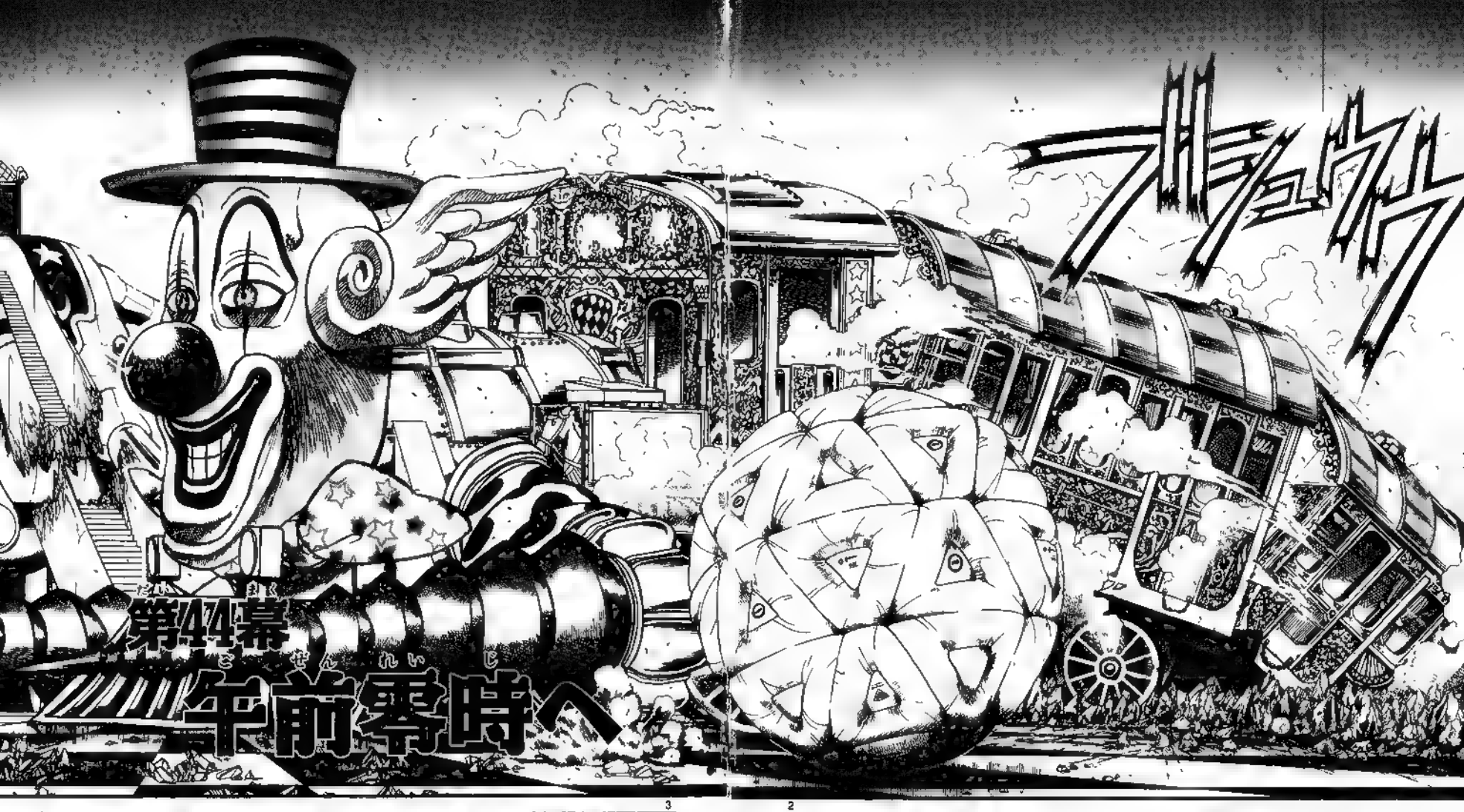
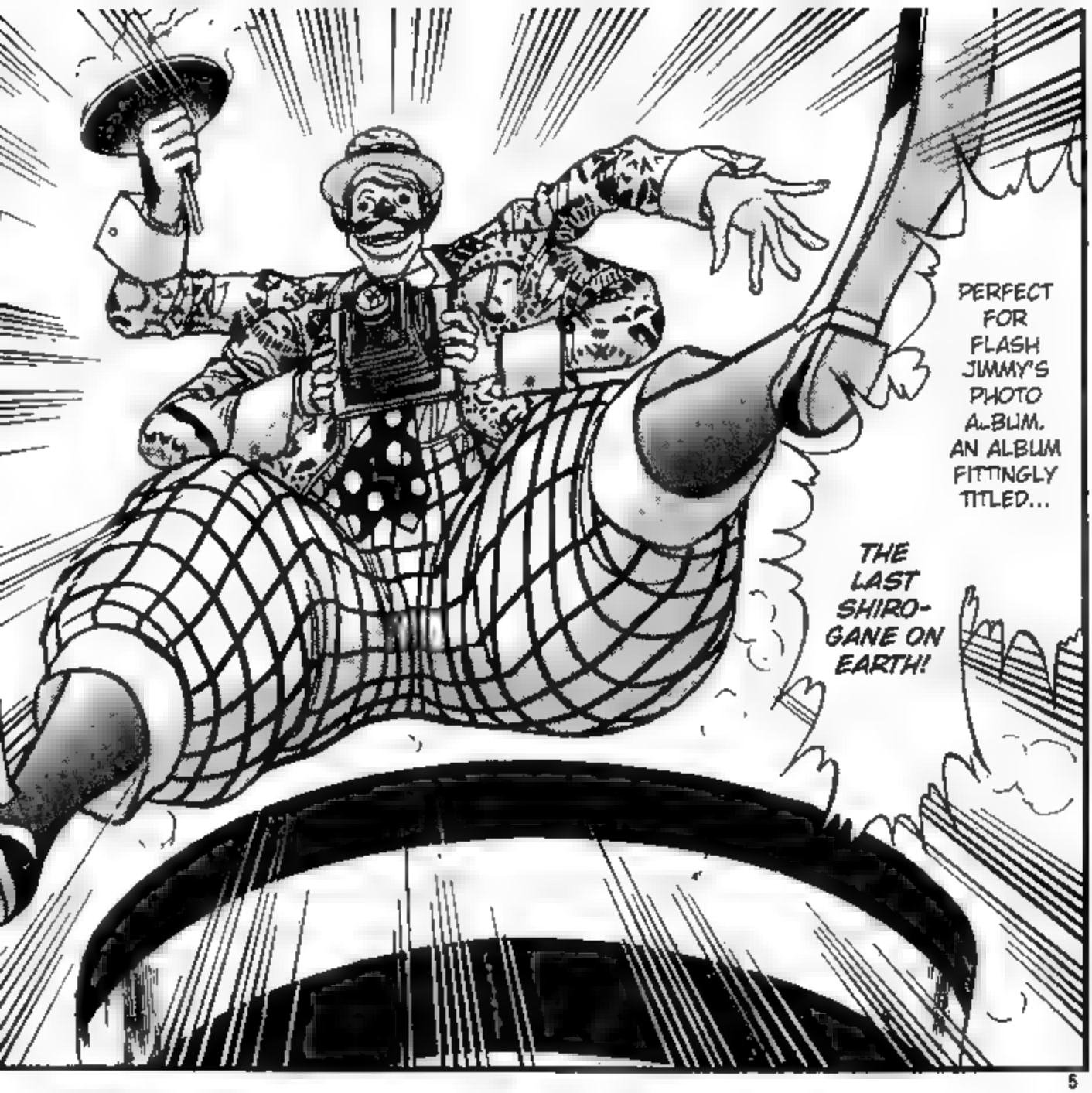



ガタン
第44幕
午前零時へ

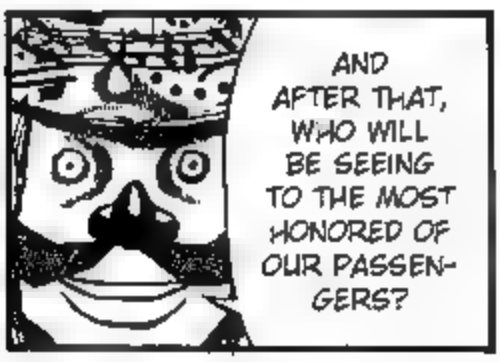
THEY'VE BEEN PLANNING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE GROUND BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!
THE HUMANS' MISSILE ATTACK WILL BEGIN AT 12:00.
IT'S 11.12 RIGHT NOW.

SO THE AUTOMATA WERE PLANNING TO ESCAPE IN THIS ALL ALONG...
A HUGE... TRAIN? THIS HAS GOTTA BE A JOKE.

SFX: BSH BSH BSH


PERFECT FOR FLASH JIMMY'S PHOTO ALBUM. AN ALBUM FITTINGLY TITLED...
THE LAST SHIRO-GANE ON EARTH!

5


AND AFTER THAT, WHO WILL BE SEEING TO THE MOST HONORED OF OUR PASSEN-GERS?

WE SHALL OF COURSE BE ESCORTING LADY FRAN-CINE OUR-SELVES.

WOULD YOU NOT AGREE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO BEGIN BOARDING THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN?
MY MOST HUMBLE APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY, SIRS. AS THE HOUR OF OUR DEPARTURE IS DRAWING NEAR...
6

WE HAVE WON.
ALL WHO ARE NOW CAPABLE OF MOVEMENT, COME DOWN AND BOARD THE TRAIN.

SFX: ROARING

WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OUR PLAN TO LURE THEM ALL TO A SINGLE LOCATION AND WIPE THEM OUT IN ONE BLOW!
THE SHIRO-GANE WERE SCATTERED ACROSS THE GLOBE, CONSTANTLY INFLICTING LOSSES UPON OUR FORCES.

UGH ...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
LURED ... AND WIPED OUT ...

SFX YELLING

COMRADES! LET US JOURNEY INTO THE NEW WORLD TOGETHER WITH LADY FRANCINE.

A WORLD WHERE THE HUMANS LACK ANY MEANS TO RESIST US!
A CORNUCOPIA OF THE HUMAN BLOOD THAT SERVES AS OUR FOOD!

THERE'S NOTHIN' WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT.... DON'T GET TOO WORKED UP OVER THERE.
DAMNED AUTOMATA ...

OUR NEXT STOP IS *PARADISE!* A HOLY LAND FREE FROM THE EVIL KNOWN AS SHIROGANE!

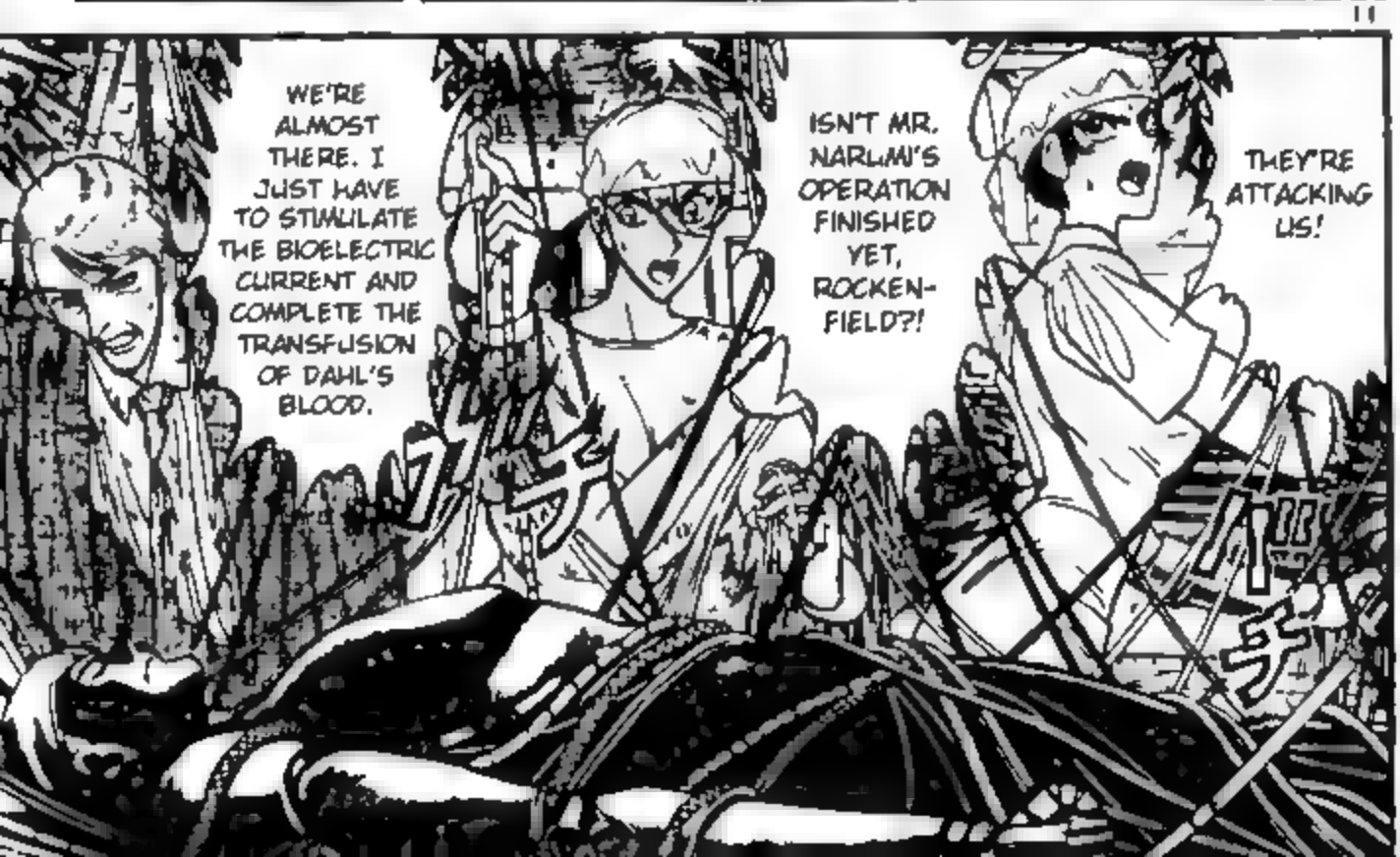
HEY! GEORGE!
I WON'T JUST LET YOU ESCAPE ...!
HMPH. NOT TO THE DEGREE THAT COLUMBINE'S DID, ARLECCHINO.
YOUR BODY ISN'T GIVING YOU TROUBLE, IS IT, PANTALONE?
NOW, LET US GATHER LADY FRANCINE.
SO LONG AS WE POSSESS THE BASIC ABILITY TO MOVE, *THIS* IS ALL THE THREAT A SHIROGANE POSES.
I'D FINISH THIS ONE OFF IF WE DIDN'T HAVE MORE PRESSING BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

D-DAMN IT...!
OH, JEEZ.
WE'RE GONNA BE DEAD SOON ANYWAY. I DON'T SEE MUCH POINT IN RACKIN' UP MORE HURT BEFORE YA GO.
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
ONE LAST WORTH-LESS LITTLE HUMAN?

MOVE.

"MOVE"
...

WE CAN'T JUST UP AND LEAVE WITHOUT RETURNING THE FA-VOR.
AHH, DAMMIT, THE SHIROGANE MADE FOOLS OF US!


WE'RE ALMOST THERE. I JUST HAVE TO STIMULATE THE BIOELECTRIC CURRENT AND COMPLETE THE TRANSFUSION OF DAHL'S BLOOD.
ISN'T MR. NARUMI'S OPERATION FINISHED YET, ROCKEN-FIELD?!
THEY'RE ATTACKING US!

ROCK-
EN-
FIELD!
!
BUT NARUMI MAY REGAIN CONSCIOUS-NESS ANY MOMENT NOW...
EEEYAAAH!
YES, THANK YOU.
ARE YOU OKAY?

THAT WAY THE ENEMIES ATTACKING US WILL BE FORCED TO TARGET YOU INSTEAD. YOU'RE PLANNING TO BE A DECOY.
WHAT ?!
YOU MEAN TO ATTACK THE DOLL FRANCINE, DON'T YOU, FATIMA?

IF THIS GOES ON, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE MR. NARUMI.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MING-XIA.
NO! FATIMA, HOW CAN YOU EVEN...

I'M SORRY, MR. ROCKEN-FIELD.
MM ...
FATIMA...

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING, MING-XIA.
FATIMA, WAIT!

I AM NO LONGER A SHIROGANE.

THAT SHIROGANE'S PLANNING TO HEAD FOR LADY FRANCINE.
OH! LOOK AT THAT!
TELL MR. NARUMI ...
TO GET WELL SOON!
FLET

FATIMAAA!!
WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT!

NO! FATI-MAAA!

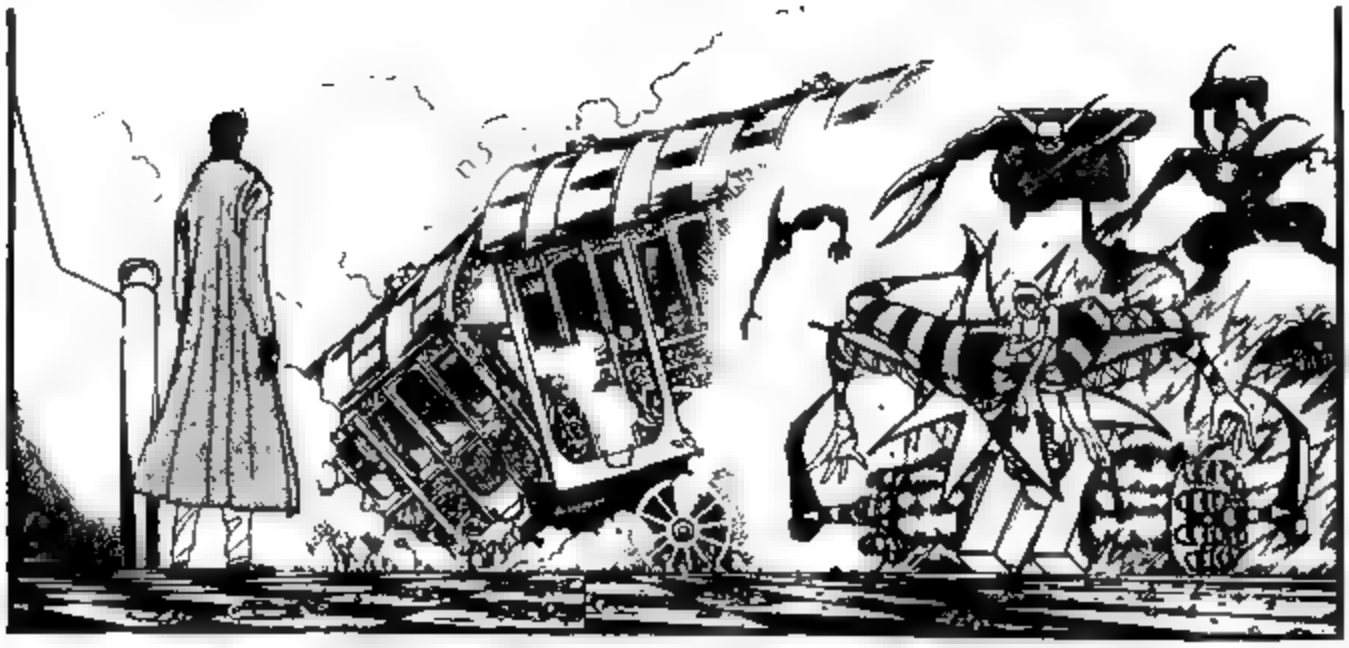
MING-HAI!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
COME BACK AND SAY IT YOUR-SELF!

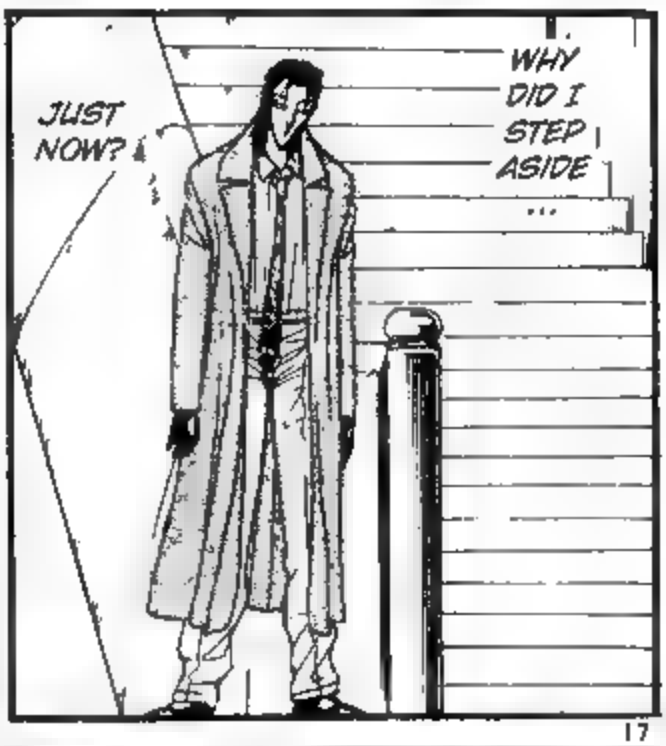
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW. YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!
NA-RUMI, THE OPERA-TION IS OVER!

WAKE UP, MING-HAI!

NA-RUMI !!



OVER-
COME BY
FEAR...
I JUST...
STEPPED
ASIDE...


JUST
NOW?
WHY
DID I
STEP
ASIDE
...

17

SO
I'M
JUST
LIKE
THEM,
AM I?
KEH.

BY A
SINGLE
WORD
FROM THAT
IMITATION
OF THEIR
BOSS...
EXACTLY
THE WAY THE
AUTOMATA
WERE IM-
MOBILIZED
...
KNEEL.

YA DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YA DOIN', YA DAMN FOOL?!
WHA ...

GET READY TO DIE, FRANCINE!
STOOOOP ...!!

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

pg. 5: The Long-Legged Clown
(長足クラウン号, *Naga-ashi Clown-gou*)
is named for the long-legged clown,
a type of clown that works on stilts
長足 is usually read *chousoku* (rapid progress),
but the characters literally just mean long + leg

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Act 45

18 Minutes Remaining

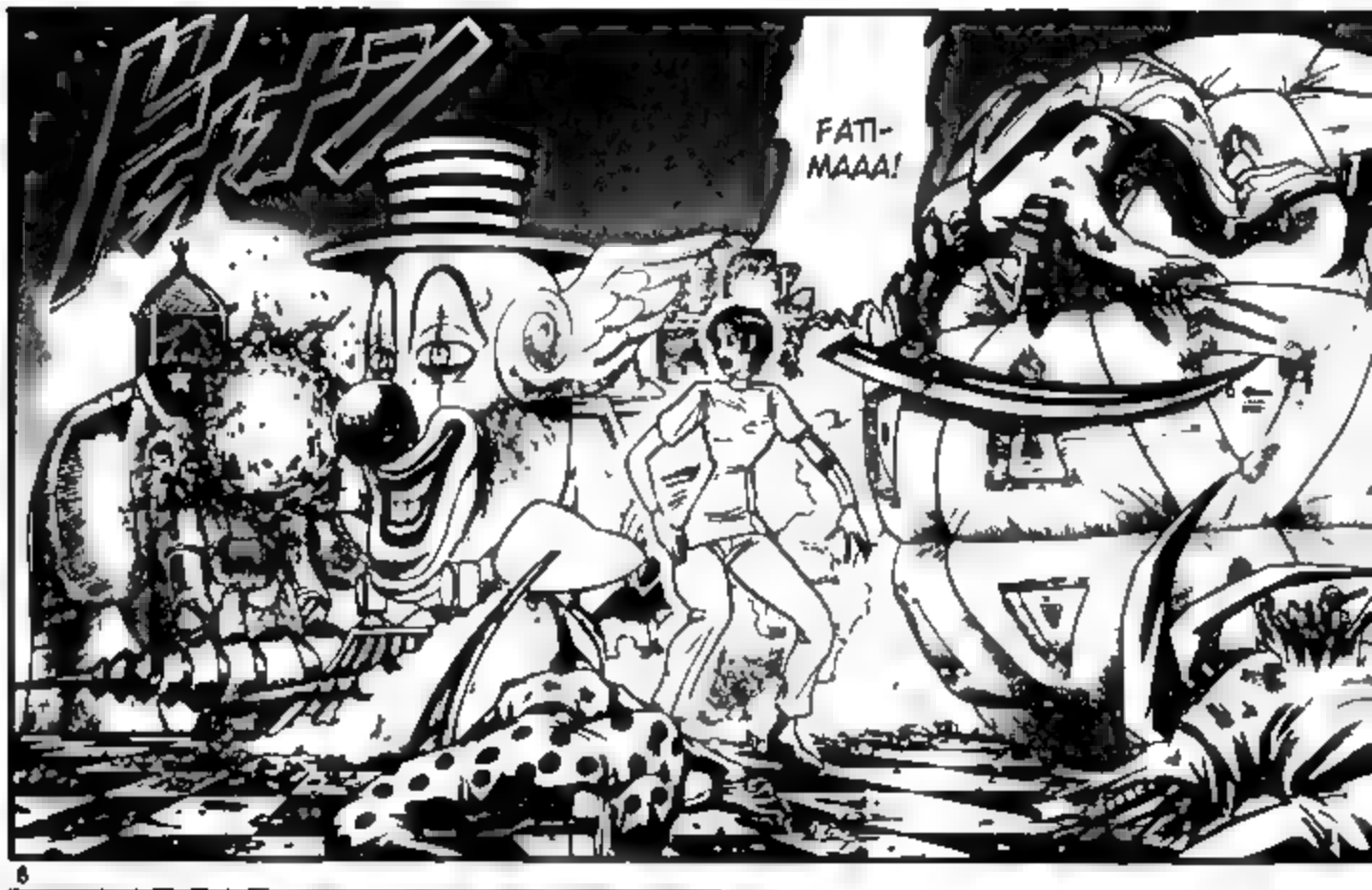
YOUR HAND, MY LADY, IF YOU WILL.
THE HUMANS' MISSILES WILL BE HERE IN 30 MINUTES' TIME.
BEFORE THAT HAP-PENS ...
WE SHALL ESCORT YOU TO THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN CAR AND MAKE GOOD OUR ESCAPE.

2

LOST
YES, SIR!
DO NOT PURSUE HER. WE ARE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS MUCH.
HMPH. ONE LONE SHIRO-GANE, AT THIS LATE HOUR ...?
THE REST OF YOU, GO AND WAIT IN THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN CAR.
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR END, AUTOMATA!

SUCH WORDS ARE HARDLY BEFITTING ONE IN YOUR POSITION, SHIROGANE.
OOPS.

NOT BAD, LITTLE GIRL
FOOL. SUCH AN ATTACK IS AS NOTHING BEFORE LES MAINS VERTS FORCES.
HM ?
IN THAT CASE, LET US SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST A RAIN OF FIRE, YOUNG LADY

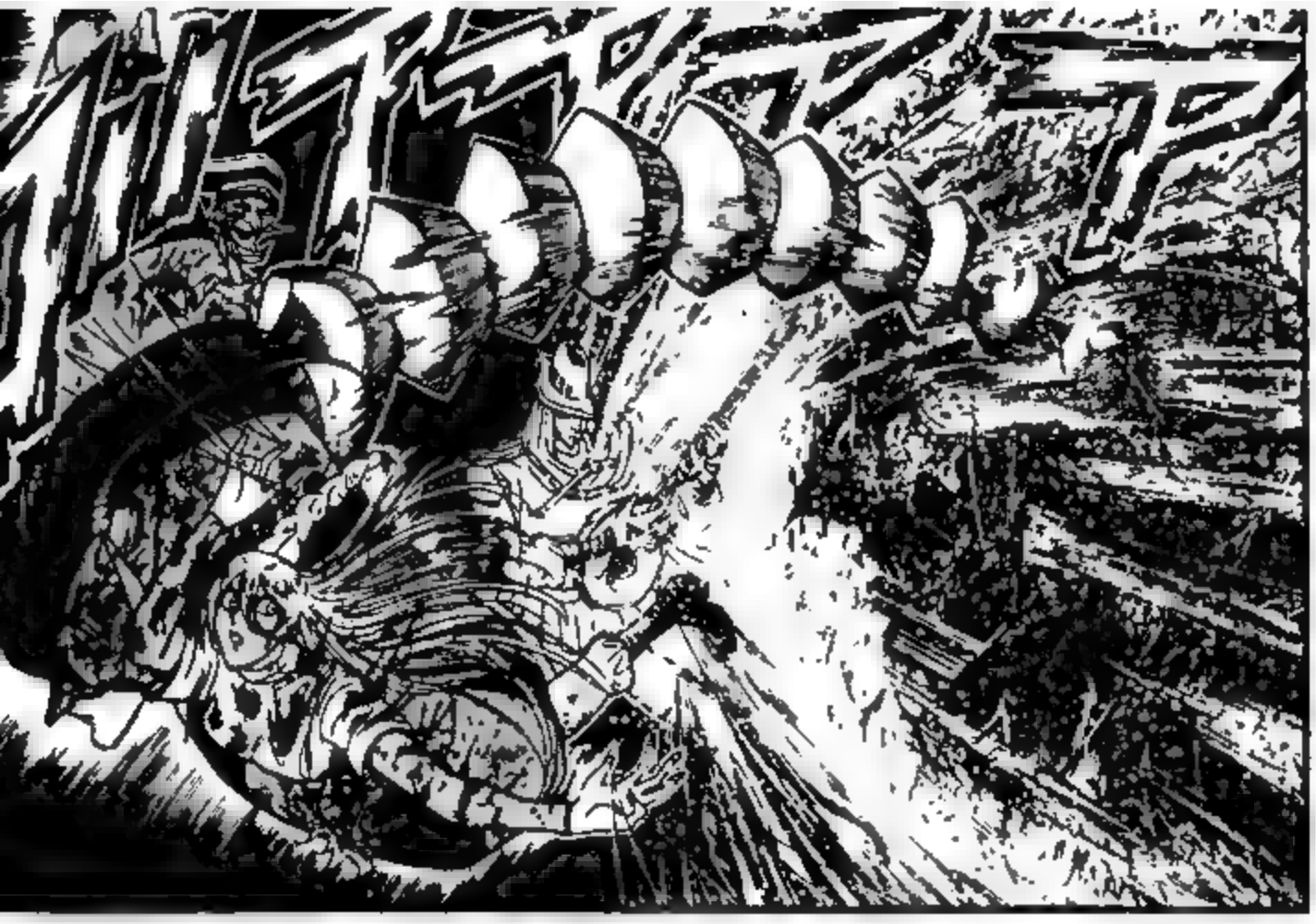

FATI-
MAAA!

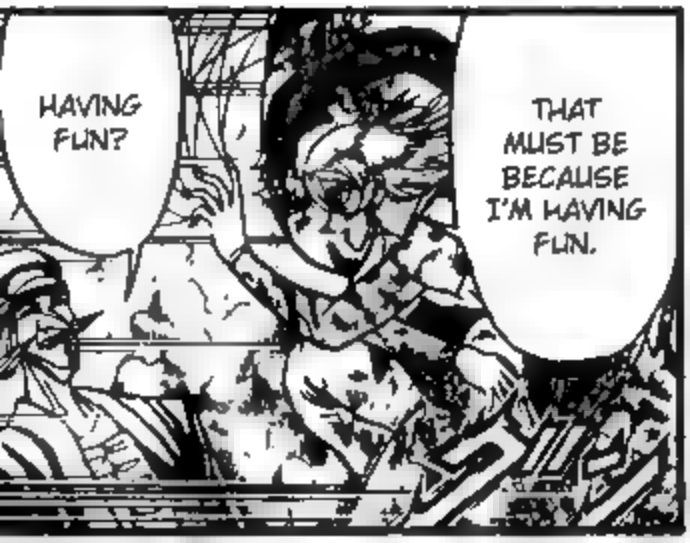
LET'S TAKE THIS CAPSULE APART!

OKAY... WELL, THEN, BEFORE WE GET INTO THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN CAR...

!
ROCK-ENFIELD! GET OUT OF THERE ...!
NARUMI!

OH... NO...!
ROCK-ENFIELD!
IS UN-HARM-ED...
D-DON'T WORRY... MING-XIA... NARUMI...
オオオ




HAVING FUN?
THAT MUST BE BECAUSE I'M HAVING FUN.

YOU ARE QUITE CAPABLE, SHIROGANE WOMAN.
YOU'RE HOLDING OUT WELL.

9

YOUR GOAL?

I HAVE ALREADY ACCOM-PLISHED MY GOAL.
THE TRUTH IS... NEITHER YOU NOR THE DOLL FRANCINE MATTER TO ME.

MY GOAL WAS TO LURE THE AUTOMATA ...
AWAY FROM THAT CAPSULE, AND PROTECT ONE OF THE MEN INSIDE IT.
AND HAVING ACCOMP-LISHED THAT, I AM SATISFIED.
SO FIGHTING YOU IS LIKE A GAME. I AM HAVING FUN.
UFUFU! IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU DOLLS, DOES IT?
I MYSELF KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT ONLY YESTER-DAY...
WHAT ON EARTH DOES SHE MEAN?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD THIS WOMAN'S SAYING...
I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE FEELING OF LOVING SOMEONE!

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
LET'S FINISH IT NOW!

FA-TIMA'S GOING TO DIE TOO...

DAMMIT ...!

THE ALTOMATA ARE GOING TO GET AWAY...

PLEASE WAKE UP.
WAKE UP, MING-HAI...
IF YOU WERE AWAKE... I KNOW YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO SOME-THING...
WILL HAVE DIED IN VAIN...
ALL OF THE SHIRO-GANE ...
AND THEN ...
12
WAKE UP, MING-HAI!

IF YOU DON'T FIGHT NOW, THEN WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?!
YOU'RE HERE TO FIGHT FOR THOSE CHILDREN WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME, AREN'T YOU?!
EVERY-BODY'S WAITING FOR YOU!
ポーポー
ポ ポ ロ
EVERY-BODY SAID THEY WANTED YOU TO LIVE!

STAND UP!!
MING-HA! PLEASE!

I ALWAYS LIKED HOW YOU LOOKED WHEN YOU WERE STANDING TALL...
I NEVER... TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT...
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT ONE MORE TIME...
IF WE'RE GOING TO DIE NO MATTER WHAT ...

AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT... WE WILL ASK FOR YOUR NAME.
YOU DID WELL. BUT THIS IS THE END.
オオオ

GOOD NIGHT, FATIMA.
I SEE.
FATIMA.
GOOD-BYE, MR. NARUMI.
SO THIS IS IT ...

SFX: IIIIH
WHAT... WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
.....
.....

MI... MING-HAI...?
スゥスゥ
SFX: INHALE

MING-
HAI...!!

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Act 46 - 10 Minutes Remaining

第46幕
10分前

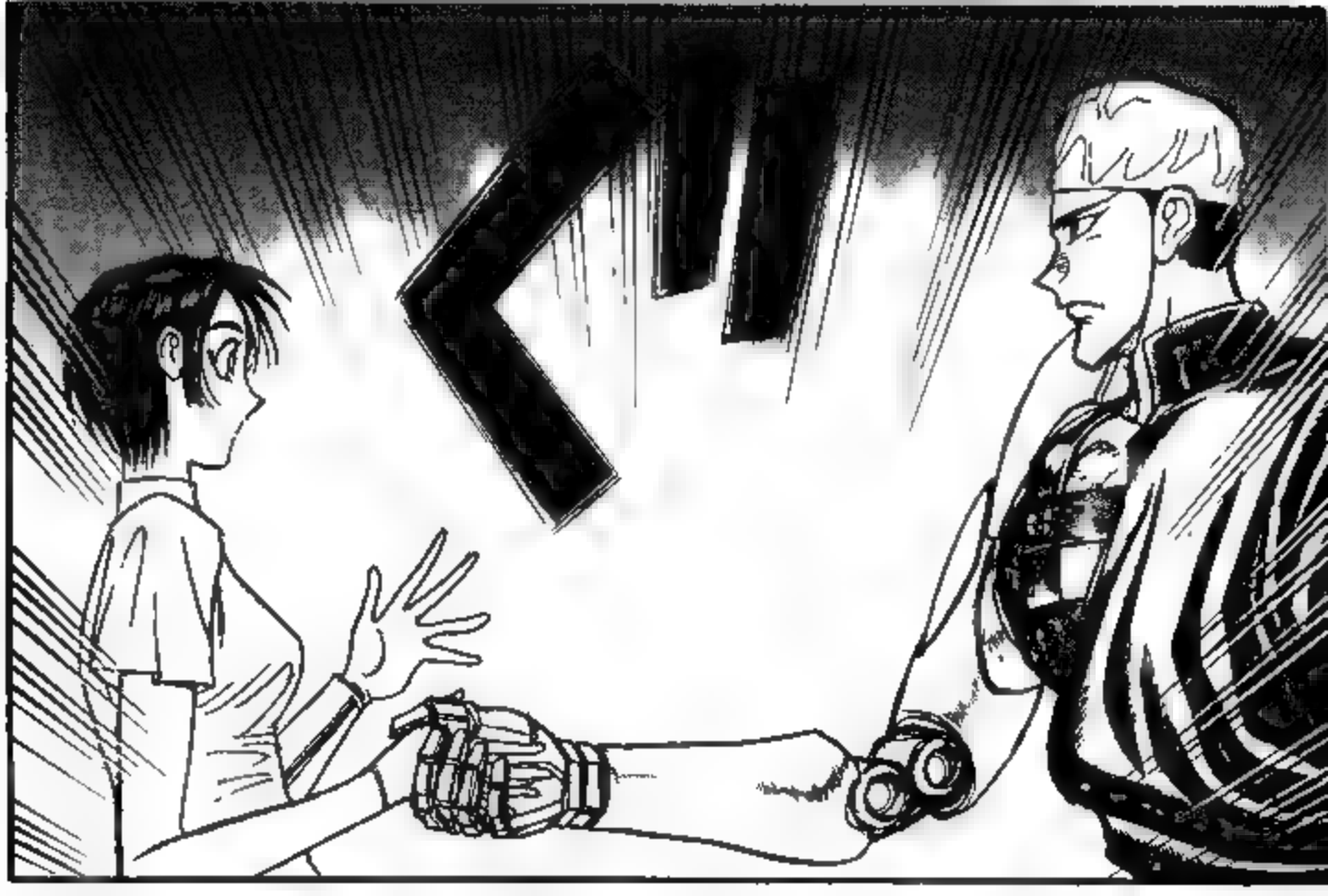
MING-HAI... LM...
ABOUT YOUR BODY... YOUR ARMS AND LEGS SHATTERED, SO...
NA-RUMI... FORGIVE US...
YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO THIS BATTLEFIELD WITH THOSE MARIONETTE LIMBS...
THOSE ARMS AND LEGS DESIGNED FOR COMBAT ...

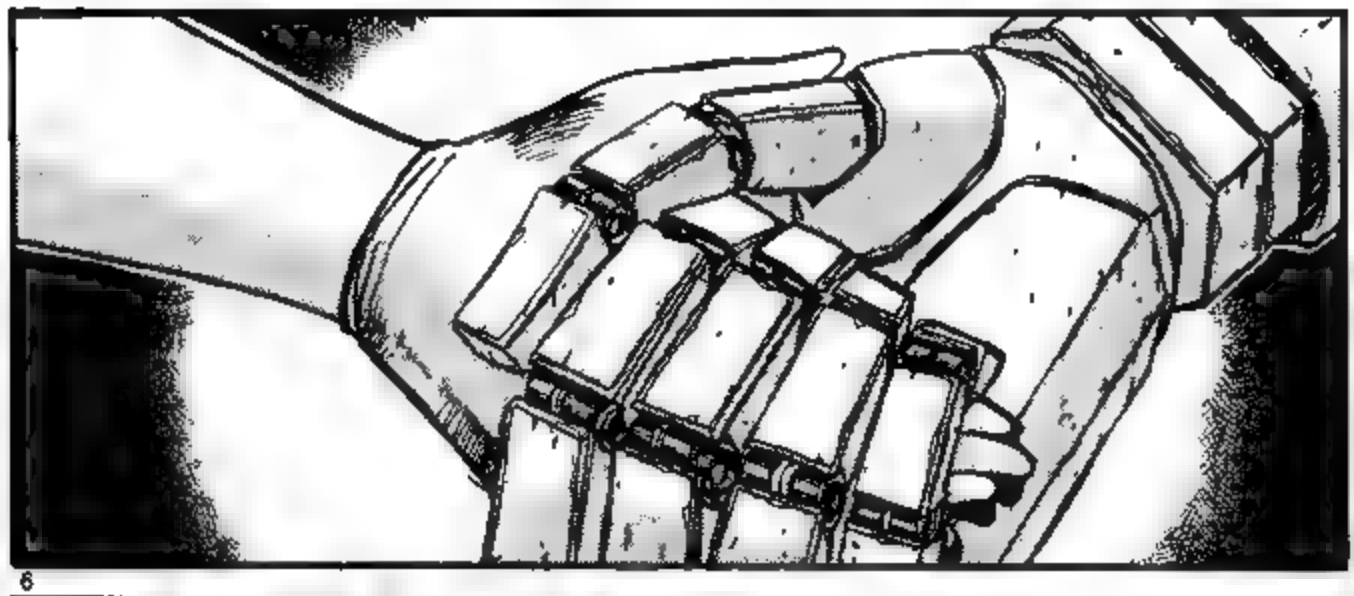
3

B-BUT... THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE, SO...
YOU MAY HATE US—NO... ME, IF YOU WISH...

I...
HEARD EVERY-THING.
I UNDER-STAND
NA-RUMI

DURING THE OPERATION... THE ENTIRE THING?
...SO YOU WERE CONSCIOUS ...
I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO NOW.
SO I KNOW ...
5
O-OKAY.
TAKE CARE OF HIM, WOULD YOU, MING-XIA?
I'M GOING.
THANK YOU, ROCKENFIELD.
UH... WHAT IS IT?
.....





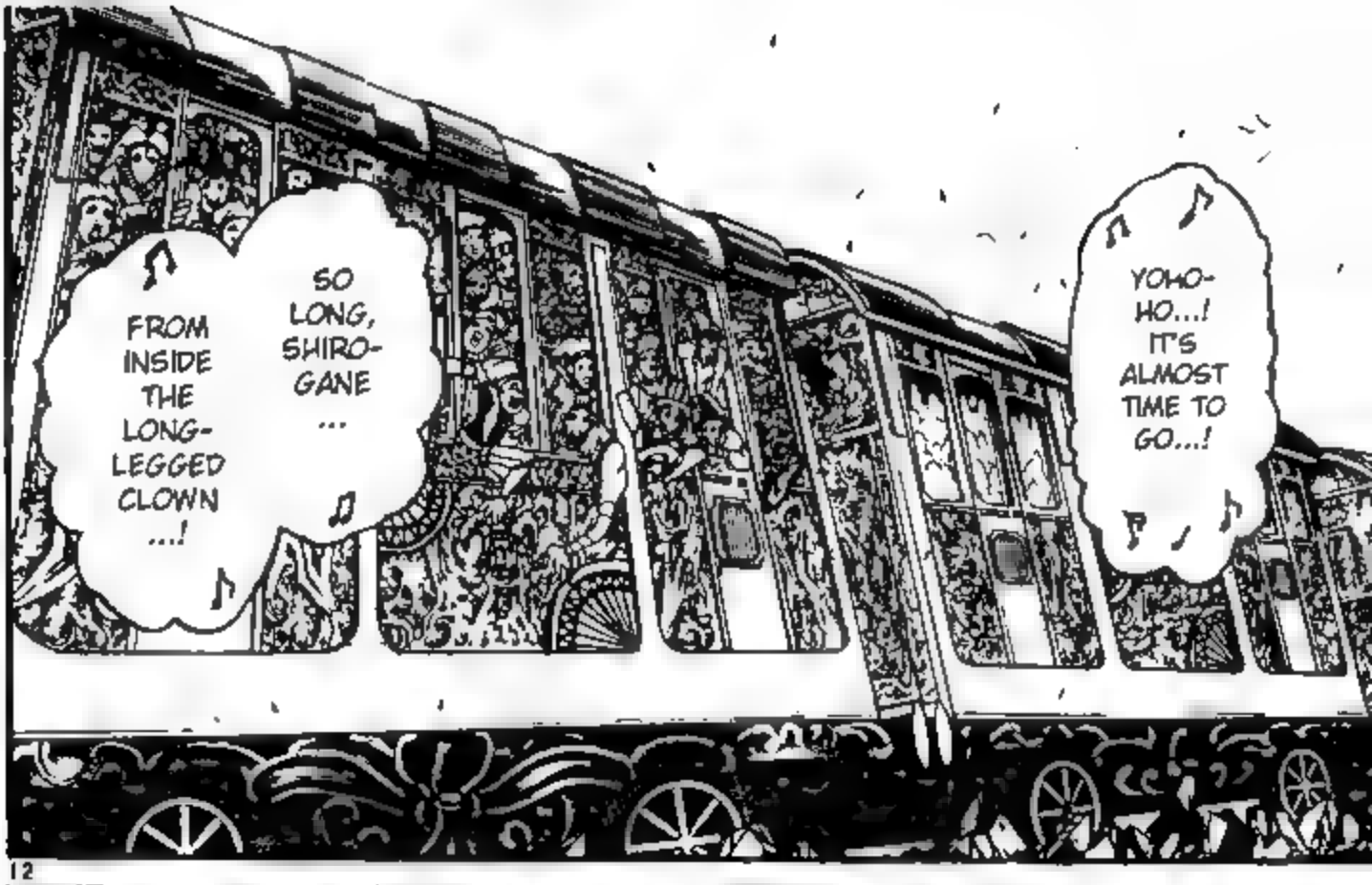
THESE ARMS AND LEGS... AREN'T MARIO-NETTE LIMBS.

WHAT THEY ARE ...
IS EVERY-BODY'S HEART AND SOUL.
MING-XIA...
YOU PUT YOUR HEART AND SOUL IN HERE TOO.

LEAVE IT TO ME.
WELL THEN, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LET THE AUTOMATA GET AWAY! AND SAVE FATIMA, TOO!

I CAN SEE TO MY OWN INJURIES. PLEASE GO WITH NARUMI. AFTER HIS SURGERY...
YES?
MING-XIA.
SILVER... MING-HAI, YOUR HAIR IS TURNING SILVER...
NOT AT ALL.
WITH SENSATION RETURNING TO HIS ARMS AND LEGS, AND THE SEVERE PAIN COURSING THROUGH HIS BODY... HE'S IN NO STATE TO BE MOVING.
10
WE WON'T FAIL YOU.
DON'T WORRY.
DAHL'S IN MY BLOOD, SAYING ...
DAHL ...

GO AFTER THE AUTOMATA.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS ...
WE'LL MOVE EXACTLY THE WAY YOU WANT ...
SO ...
LET'S GO, GUYS!
11


YOHO-HO...! IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO...!
SO LONG, SHIRO-GANE ...
FROM INSIDE THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN ...!

OUR NEXT STOP A HUMAN BLOOD BUFFET ...!

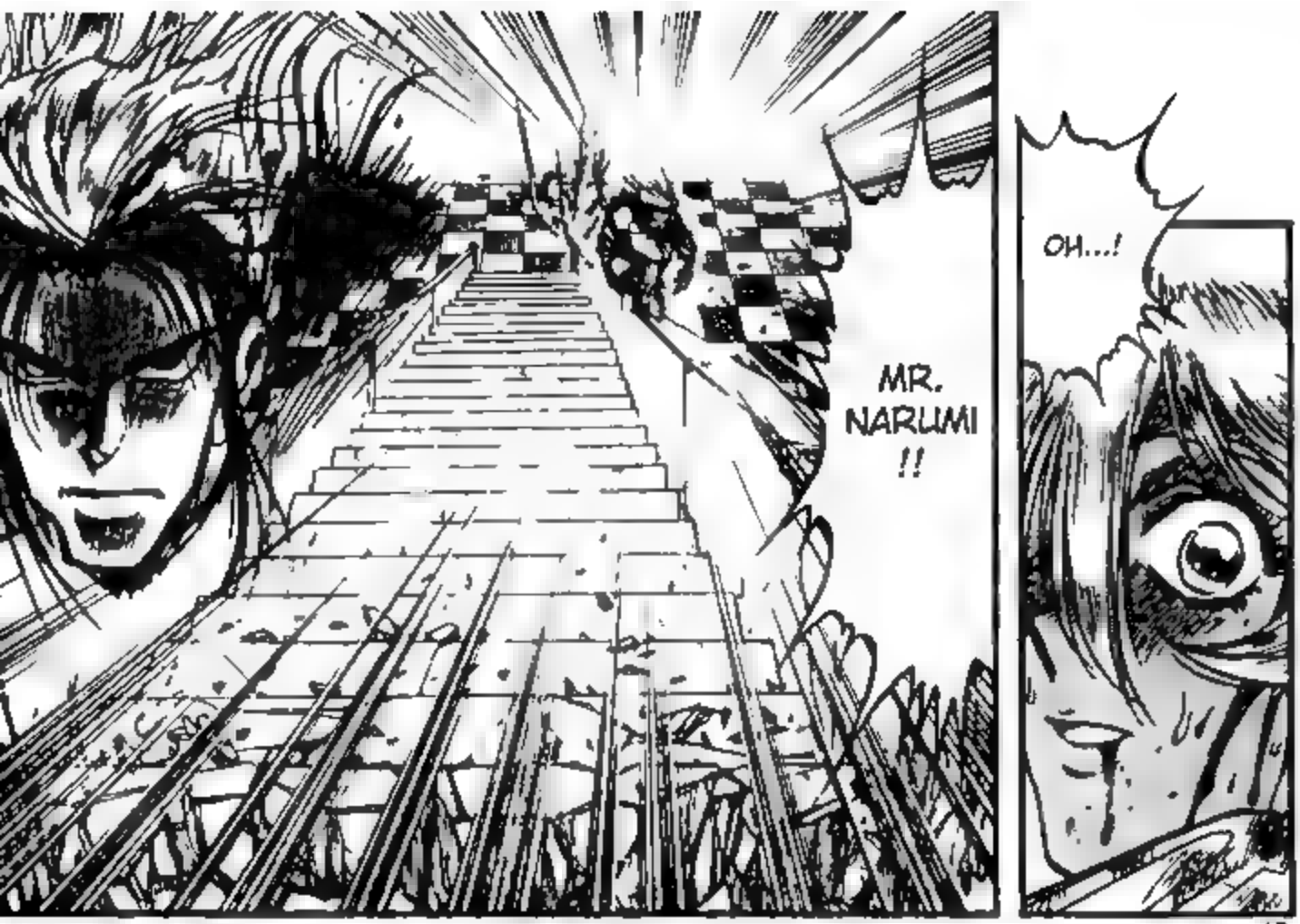
WE'LL BE SAFELY OFF AND ON OUR WAY...!
BY THE TIME THE MISSILES GET HERE, WE'LL BE IN THE GROUND...

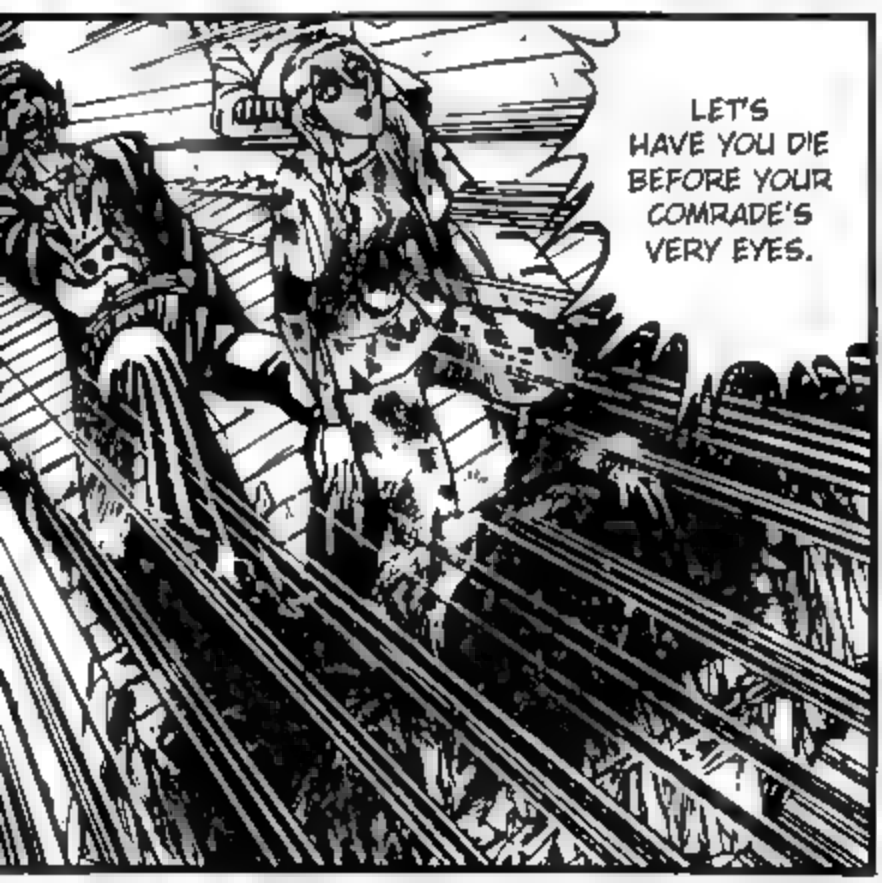
HUH? SOME-THING'S COMING.

SFX: GYAHAHAHA; HAHAHAHA

HRM ...
THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN CAR...

WHAT'S GOING ON?


MR. NARUMI !!
OH...!


LET'S HAVE YOU DIE BEFORE YOUR COMRADE'S VERY EYES.

STOP THERE, WOMAN ...!!

HOW... COULD A MERE SHIRO-GANE ...
IM... POS-SIBLE ...
I'M NO SHIRO-GANE.
I'M KATOU NARUMI.

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Act.47 6 Minutes Remaining

MR. NARUMI!
NARUMI ... YOU WERE STILL ALIVE ...?
YOU... YOU... INSOLENT ...!
LEARN YOUR PLACE, HUMAN! YOU DARE TO STRIKE PANTALONE ?!
第47幕
6分前

SO WHAT IF I DID, DOLL?
THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM ...
PANTA-LONE.

YOU'RE... ALIVE...
THANK GOOD-NESS ...

YES ...
PLEASE DO... DEFEAT THEM...

AFTER I TAKE OUT THESE GUYS AND DESTROY THE DOLL FRANCINE ...
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, FATIMA.

EVEN SETTING HIS APPEARANCE ASIDE, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THIS MAN HAS CHANGED SINCE WE SAW HIM LAST.

CALM DOWN, PANTA-LONE.
NRRAAAH! THIS WILL NOT STAND ...!

BE SILENT, ARLECCHINO. YOU STAY BACK.
WAIT!

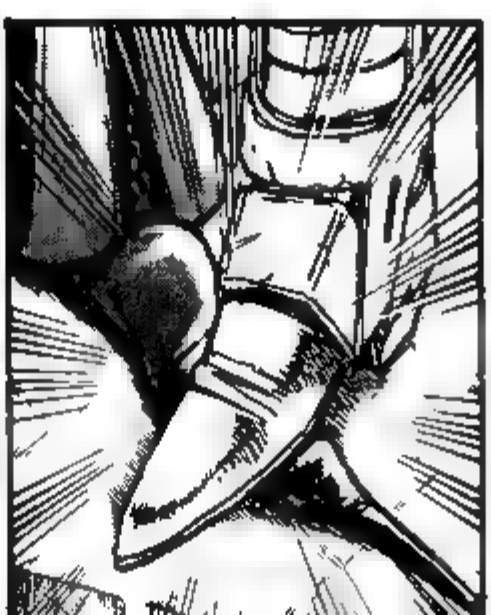
NAAA-RUUU-MIIII...!!

THE RESTRAINTS ON MY POWER HAVE BEEN LIFTED. WITNESS THE TRUE MIGHT OF LES QUATRE PIONNIERS!

THESE EXTENSIONS OF LES MAINS VERTS FONCÉS DESTROY ALL THROUGH WHICH THEY PASS!
MY SPEED CAN NO LONGER BE REGISTERED BY HUMAN EYES!
YOU'LL BE DEAD IN AN INSTANT, NARUMI!

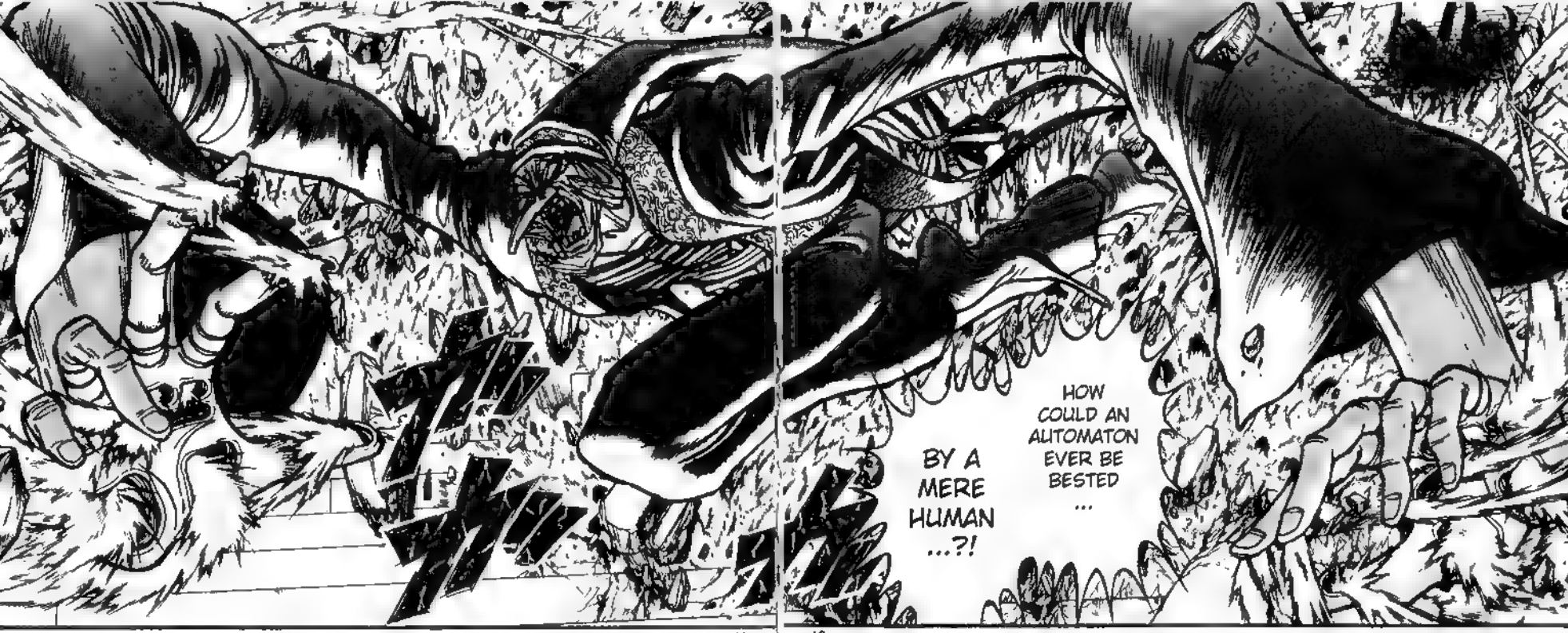
8

9



HE'S... SO FAST ...!
THIS .. THIS IS ...

THIS IS IMPOS-SIBLE!!
I AM PAN-TALONE! I AM UNSUR-PASSED!


BY A MERE HUMAN ...?!
HOW COULD AN AUTOMATON EVER BE BESTED ...

THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT TO BRAG ABOUT.
TWO HUNDRED YEARS, TOPS, OF GOING UNBEATEN ...

HUMANS HAVE STUDIED FIGHTING ...
TEN TIMES LONGER THAN THAT.
...
WHAT ARE YOU ...?!
TOO SLOW!

15
WHERE IS HE?! WHERE DID HE ...
GWO-OOO-OAH ...!!
PANTALONE... THERE IS NO WORLD FOR YOU AUTOMATA. NOT ANYMORE.

WHERE ...
GET OUT OF THE WAY! DON'T LET THAT HIT YOU !!
PANTALONE!

ROCKEN-
FIELD...
CAN
YOU
SEE
THAT?
DAD
...!

THE PAIN OF THE HUMAN CHILDREN WHO ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME YOU SPREAD!
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN A COUPLE OF THINGS FIRSTHAND.

DAMN
...!

AND THE ANGER OF THOSE WHO THREW AWAY THEIR VERY HUMANITY TO FIGHT YOU...
THE FURY OF THE SHIRO-GANE!!

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Act 48 3 Minutes Remaining

第48幕 3分前

SFX: BAM BAM BAM

3

AMAZING...

SFX: CRASH

PANTA-
LONE...
YOU TOO
...?

THERE IS NO ONE TO GUARD LADY FRANCINE...
THAT MEANS ONLY ARLEC-CHINO IS LEFT...

WITH DOTTORE REDUCED TO THAT STATE
...

HEY... MASTER PANTALONE LOST!

おおおおお
LADY FRANCINE... LADY FRANCINE'S IN DANGER ...!
WHADDA WE DO NOW?!

SFX: WAAAAH!

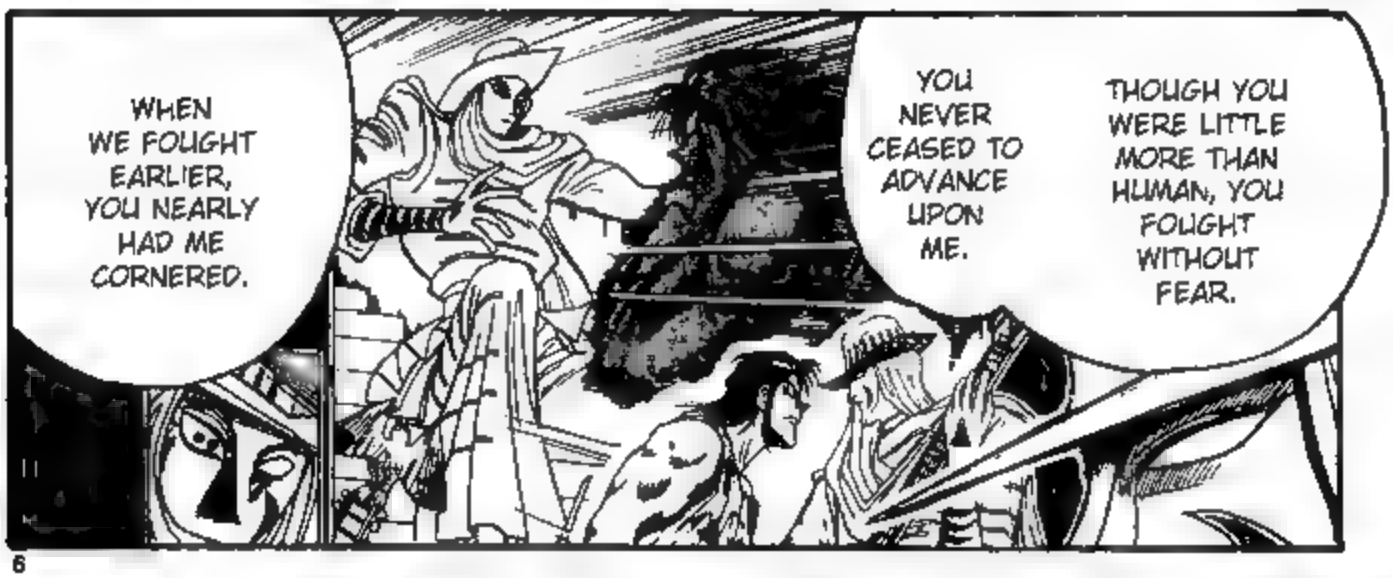
I WAS FOND OF YOU, YOU KNOW.
NARUMI ...
HOW-EVER ...

SHH! BE SILENT. MASTER ARLECCHINO STILL REMAINS.

5

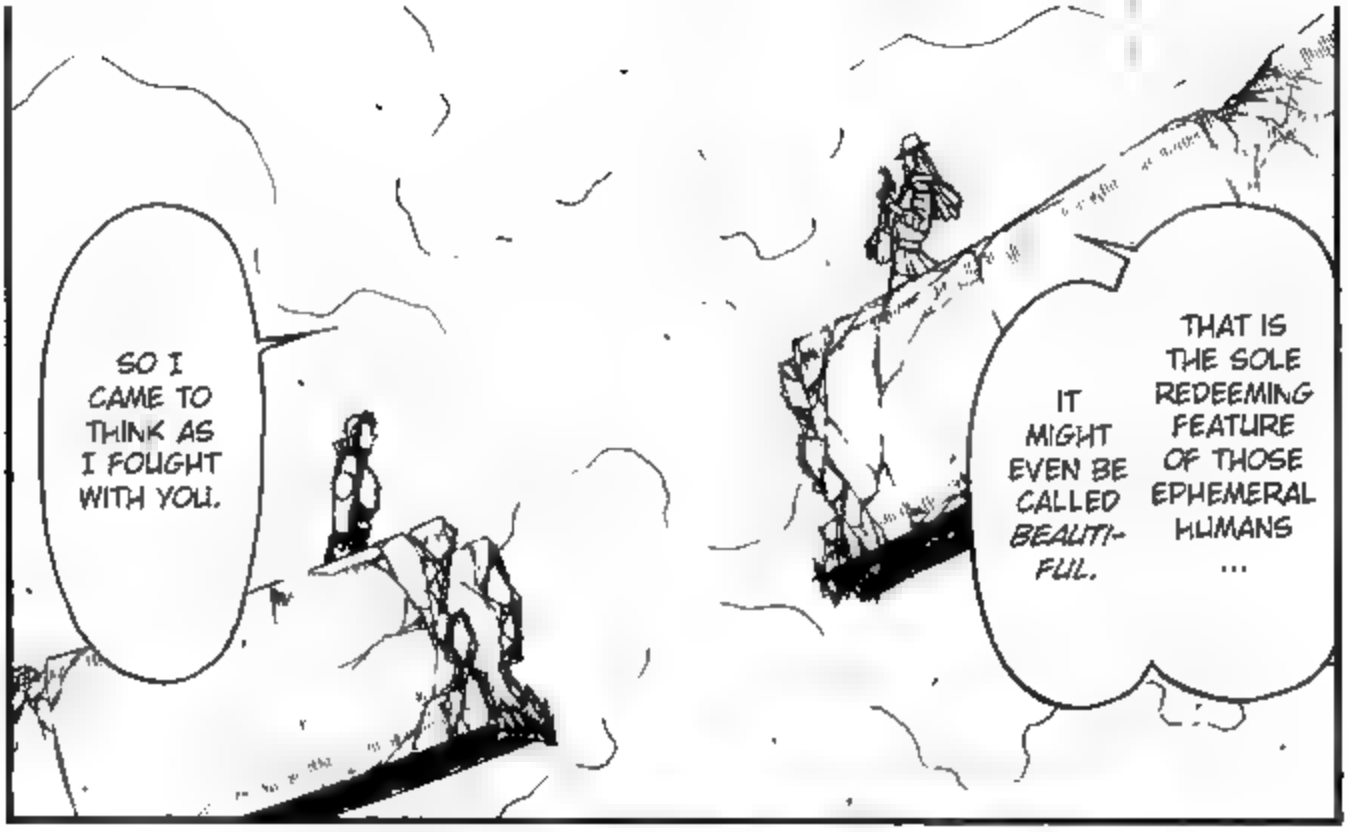
ARLEC-CHINO OF LES MAINS SCARLA-TINES.
THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN BEST THE UNDEFEATED MUSICIAN ...

SADLY, YOU HAVE DISAPPOINTED ME.


WHEN WE FOUGHT EARLIER, YOU NEARLY HAD ME CORNERED.
YOU NEVER CEASED TO ADVANCE UPON ME.
THOUGH YOU WERE LITTLE MORE THAN HUMAN, YOU FOUGHT WITHOUT FEAR.

BUT BY RELAYING THEIR SEEMINGLY WORTHLESS *LIFE* DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS, THEY HAVE REFINED THEIR FIGHTING ARTS AND CREATED CIVILIZATION.
YES... HUMANS DIE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY MAY LEARN...
NO MATTER WHAT HEIGHTS THEY MASTER OF THEIR CHOSEN CRAFT.

I EVEN LEARNED TO RESPECT THOSE TECHNIQUES FOR FIGHTING UNARMED, CREATED BY A CHAIN OF WEAK HUMANS, WHO DIED OF OLD AGE...
AND YOU, THE MAN WHO USED THOSE ARTS.


SO I CAME TO THINK AS I FOUGHT WITH YOU.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE CALLED *BEAUTIFUL.*
THAT IS THE SOLE REDEEMING FEATURE OF THOSE EPHEMERAL HUMANS ...

WHAT WAS THAT?
ピク

THE SHIROGANE ARE UGLY THROUGH AND THROUGH.
IN CONTRAST, HOWEVER ...

SFX: TWITCH

IS TO DESTROY US! TO DESTROY THE AUTOMATA!!

THAT IS BECAUSE A SHIROGANE'S REASON FOR LIVING...
THEY CREATE NOTHING IN THEIR SO-CALLED *LIVES*, AND THEY LEARN NOTHING.
THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF DYING UNLESS THEY ARE ACTIVELY KILLED.

IS THERE ANY ORGANISM, ANY LIVING BEING UPON THIS EARTH THAT IS INCAPABLE OF DYING, THAT SEEKS ONLY TO DESTROY?!
TELL ME, NARUMI ...

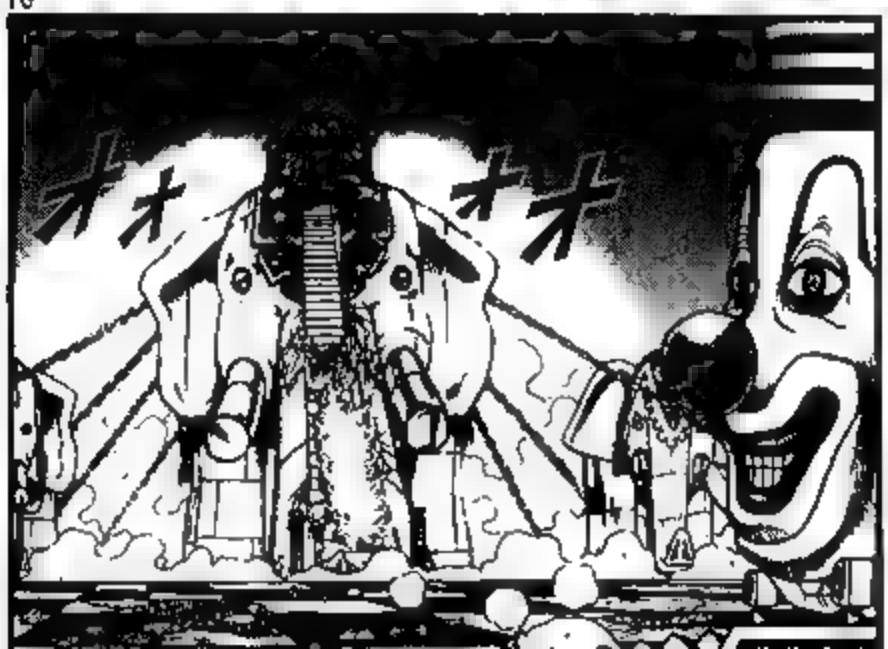
THE BEINGS KNOWN AS SHIROGANE ARE THE UGLIEST ABOMINATIONS EVER BROUGHT FORTH UPON THIS EARTH!

AND YOU, NARUMI ...
NOW YOU HAVE THROWN AWAY YOUR HUMAN BODY, AND YOUR ONLY GOAL IS TO DESTROY US.

HMPH. ARE YOU SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE RECEIVED BLOOD INFUSED WITH AQUA VITAE...
YOU HAVE BECOME ENTIRELY SHIROGANE, WITH HAIR THAT IS ALMOST COMPLETELY SILVER?
YOU SURE CAN TALK, ARLECCHINO ...
BUT I'VE BEEN A SHIROGANE FOR A WHILE NOW.
NO. NOW THAT YOU HAVE THOSE DISTASTEFUL MARIONETTE LIMBS ATTACHED TO YOUR NERVE ENDINGS ...
NOW THAT YOU HAVE OBTAINED SPEED ALMOST COMPARABLE TO THE AUTOMATA, YOU ARE NO LONGER A SHIROGANE.
YOU ARE WORSE.

YOU WERE HUMAN. YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE YOU WOULD SOMEDAY DIE.
BUT YOU ARE HUMAN NO LONGER.

FAREWELL, ABOMINATION.
CONSIDER THIS A PURIFICATION, NARUMI.



MR. NARUMI!

NOOO!
MING-HAI ...!!

NO ...
YOU'RE WRONG, ARLECCHINO.

YOU THINK HUMANS ARE BEAU-TIFUL BECAUSE THEY DIE?
THE SHIROGANE THAT YOU CALLED UGLY... THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL.
OH? YOU'RE NOT BURNING ...?
HUMANS AREN'T BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE THEY DIE!

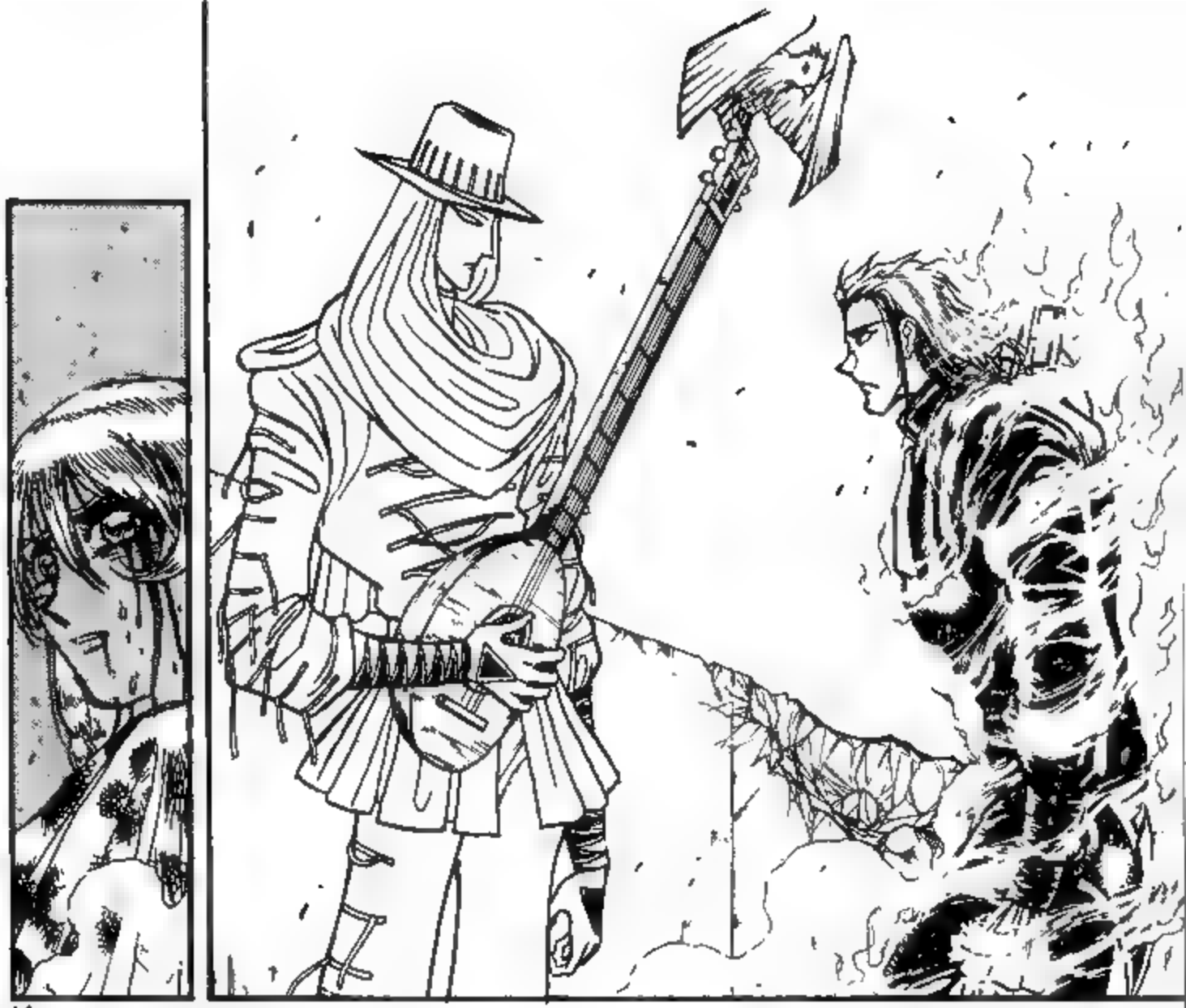
WE CAN REMEMBER THAT WE'RE STILL ALIVE NOW...
EVEN WHEN WE'RE AT THE POINT OF DEATH...

WHAT ABOUT YOU DOLLS ?!
THAT'S WHAT MAKES HUMANS BEAUTI-FUL!
EVEN THEN, WE CAN SMILE!

MY COMRADES LEFT ME THESE LIMBS! THIS IS THE PROOF THAT THEY WERE ALIVE!!
LOOK AT ME, ARLECCHINO! RIGHT NOW, I'M ALIVE!

PROOF, YOU SAY?
THEN LET YOUR OWN IMPENDING DEATH BY LES MAINS SCARLATINES BE THE EVIDENCE YOU SEEK

PROVE TO ME THAT YOU FAKE DOLLS ARE BETTER THAN US!
YOU SAY YOU'RE ALIVE, TOO? SHOW ME PROOF, THEN!



SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT YOU AUTOMATA WERE BEAUTIFUL. NOT EVEN ONCE.

YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T MAKE ME SMILE, FRANCINE!!

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Act 49_Midnight

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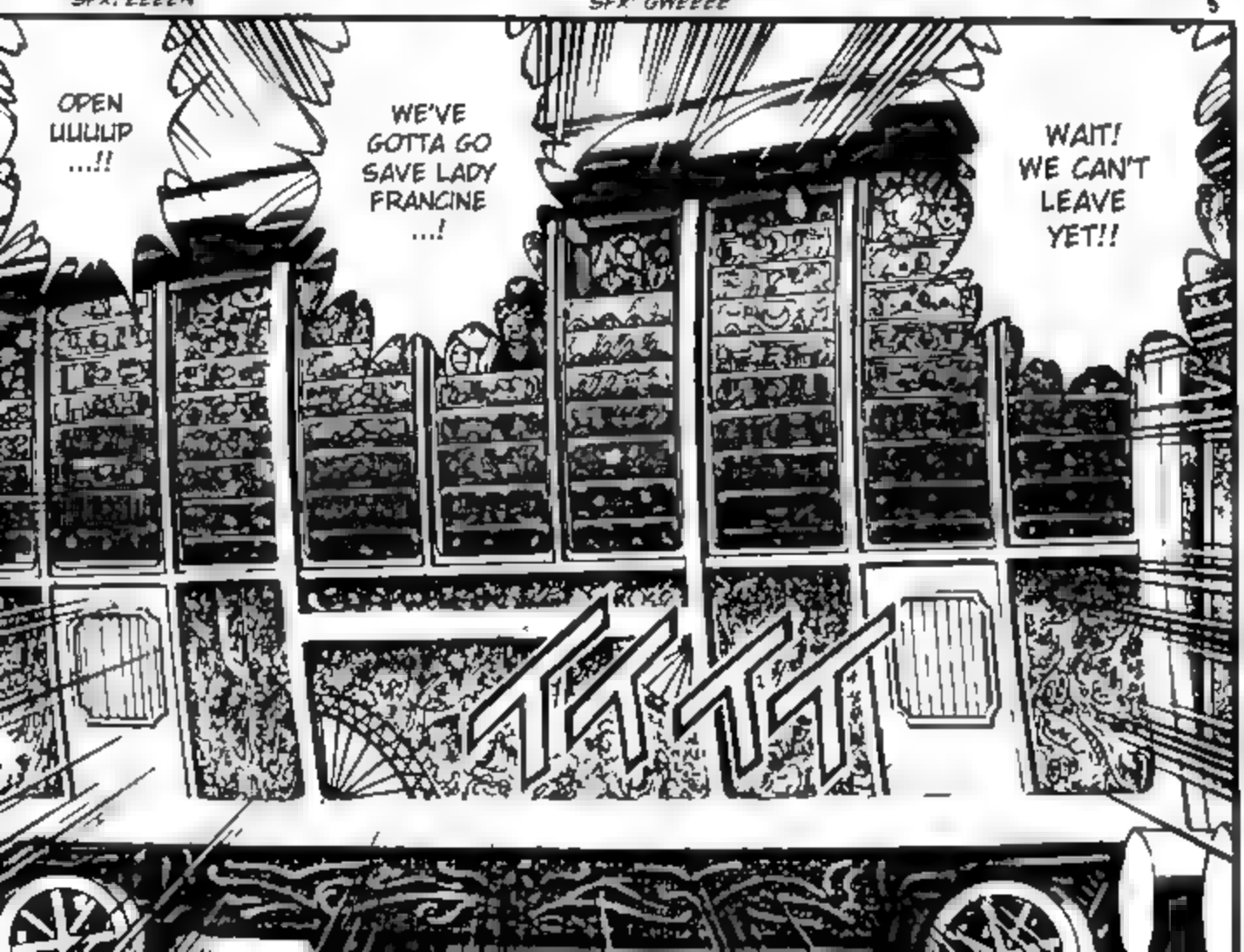
第49幕
午前零時

TIME FOR OUR AUDI-ENCE.
ALL OF YOUR ATTENDANTS ARE GONE NOW.
THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO GUARD YOU, FRANCINE.
OH, NOOO ...!
AND THAT SHIROGANE'S ABOUT TO GO AFTER LADY FRANCINE...!
EVEN MASTER AR..ECCHINO'S BEEN TAKEN OUT NOW.
NO... THIS IS TERRIBLE ...!

SFX: EEEEN

SFX: GWEEEE



WE'VE GOTTA HURRY!
THE HUMANS' MISSILES ARE ON THE WAY !!

LET'S GET TO THE DRIVER'S CAR AND OPEN THEM BACK UP.
WHO CLOSED THE SHUTTERS ?!

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6

ARE MIGHTY HANDY FOR TOSSIN' OUT ALL THIS GARBAGE.
ガシャ

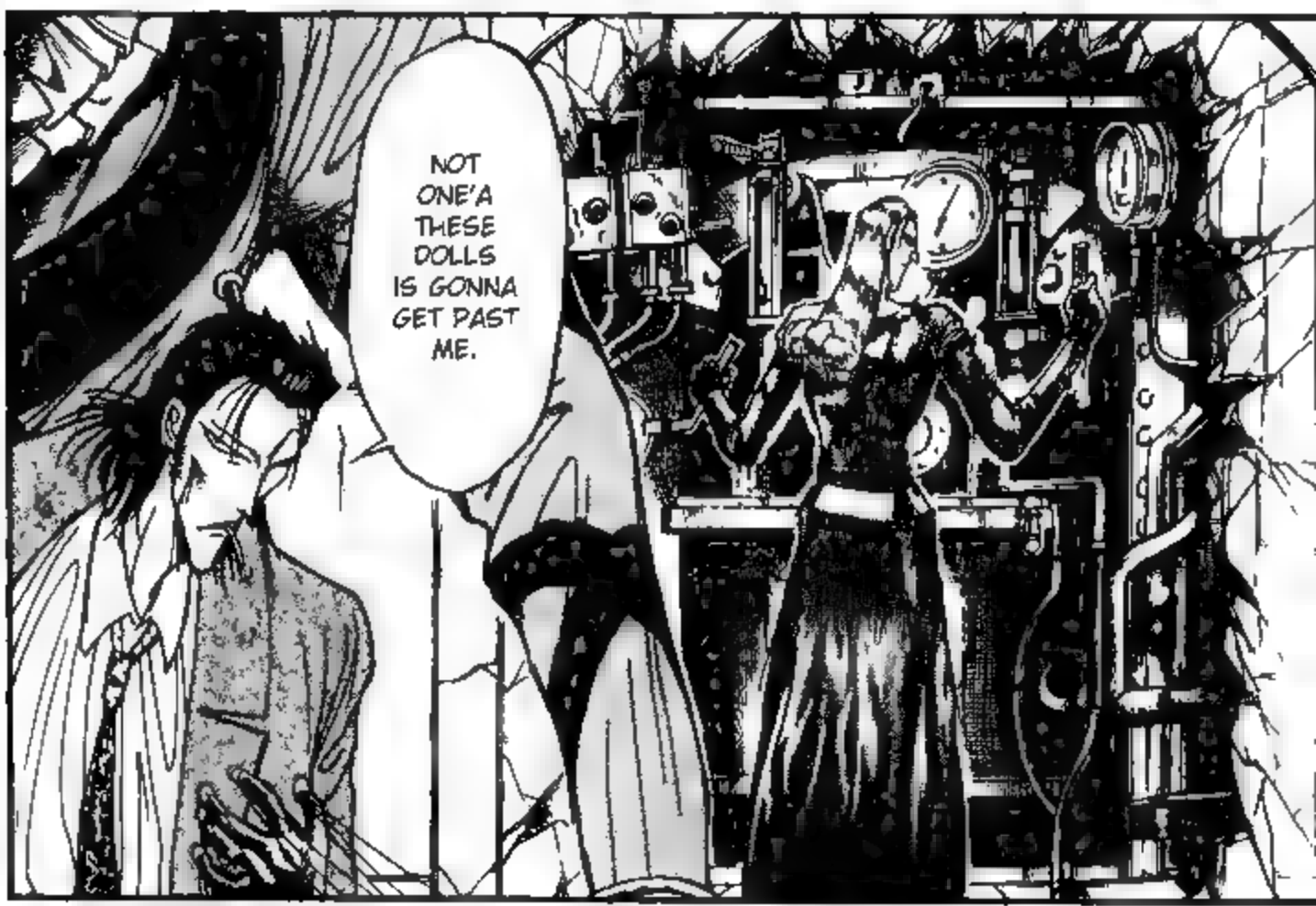
HAHAHA ... AIN'T THAT NICE?
THE HOLES THAT FELLA PUNCHED OPEN ...
ポイ

WHA ...?!

KEEP ON COMIN', GENTLE-MEN.
WILL JUST KEEP ON BREAKIN' YA AND TOSSIN' YA OUT.
PULCI-NELLA 2 AND I...

GEORGE-SAN, I'LL LEAVE THE RESTA THIS PLAN T'YOU.
HELL NO.

MOVE!
YOU... YOU'RE A PUP-PETEER!


NOT ONE'A THESE DOLLS IS GONNA GET PAST ME.

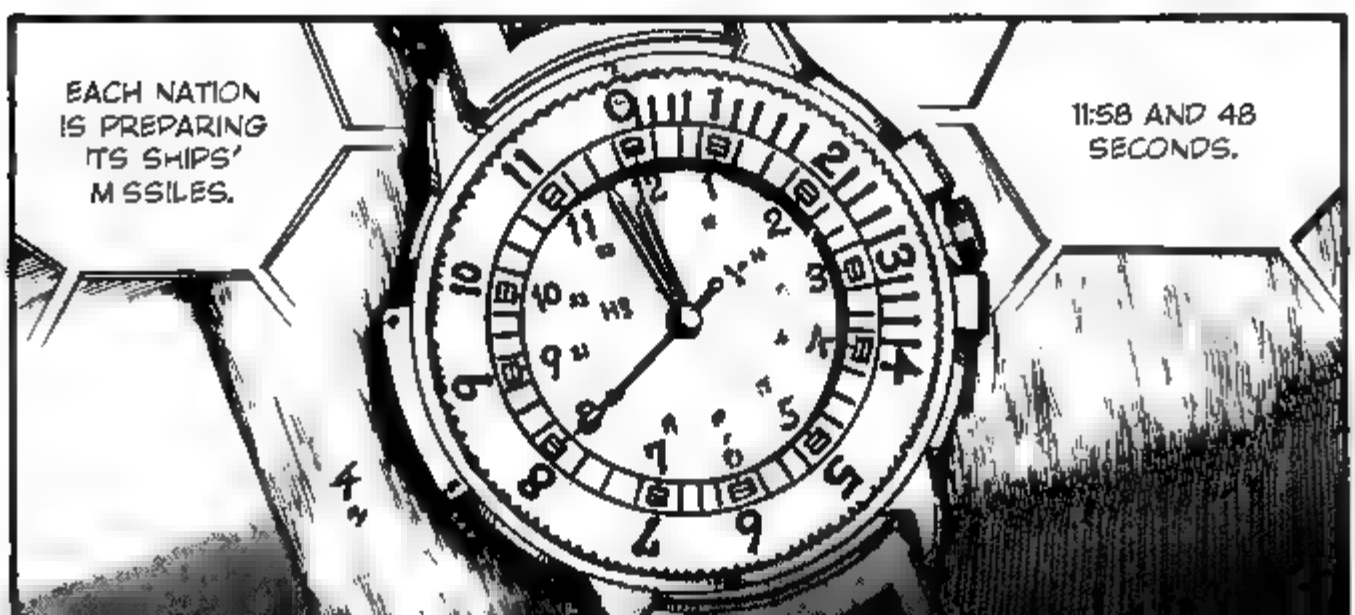
HEH ...

ASHI-HANA... WHAT IS GOING ON?
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T WILLING TO HELP OUT.

IT'S JUST THESE GUYS ...

I'M ABOUT SICK TO DEATH OF 'EM.

AND ME, MOVIN' OUTTA THE WAY LIKE A MACHINE GIVEN ITS MARCHIN' ORDERS...
MOVE.

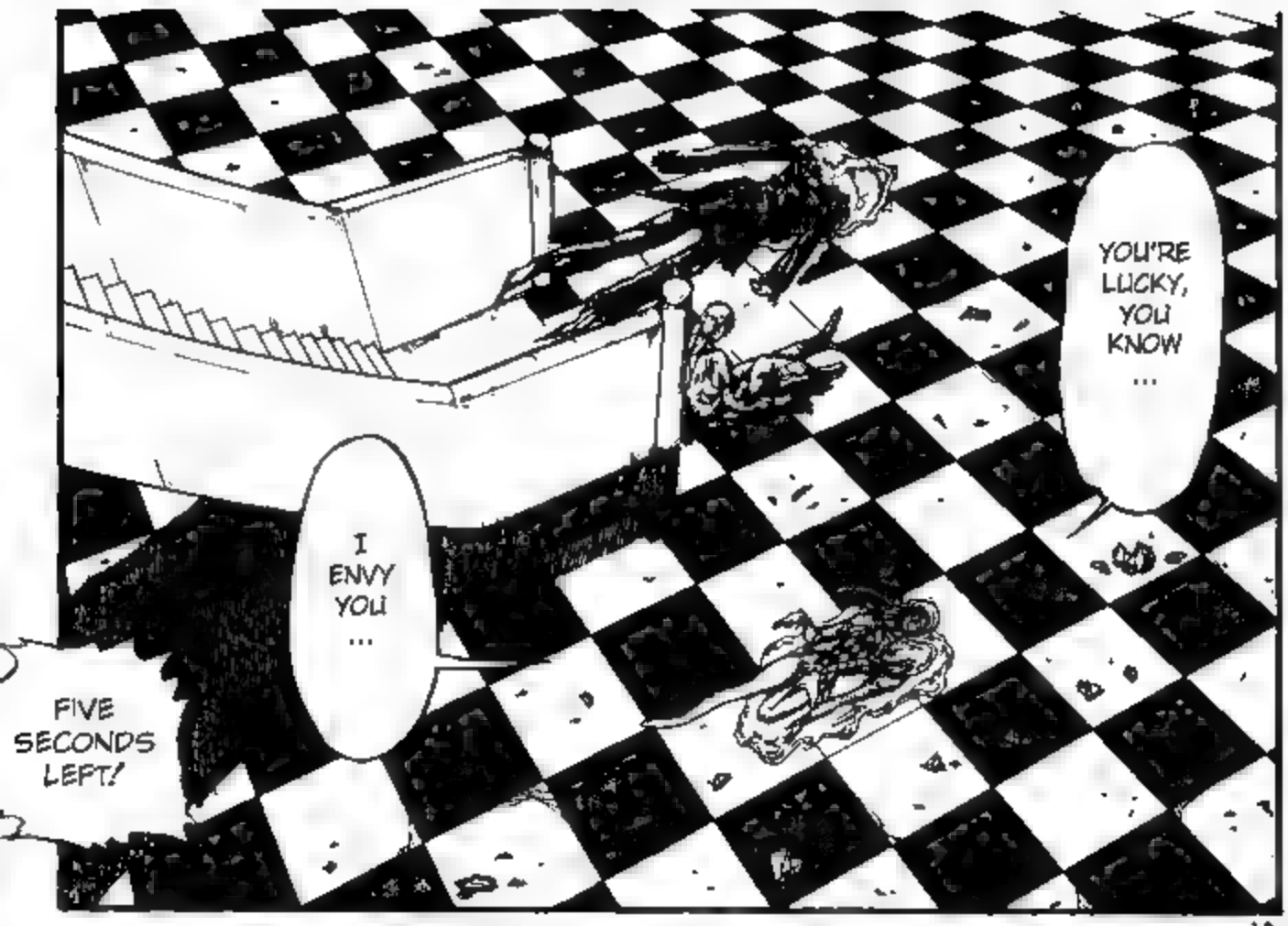

EACH NATION IS PREPARING ITS SHIPS' MISSILES.
11:58 AND 48 SECONDS.

THE DARREN CHANT'S PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
THIS S THE DAPADOKYA GREMICA HERE.
THE SPECAL MULTI-WARHEAD MISSILE IS LOADED AND READY TO GO.
THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN.
THE SHIROGANE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MISSION, THEN.
GOOD!
THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS HAS NOT CHANGED POSITION.
60 SECONDS TO GO!

SHIRO-GANE...
YOU! AUTOMATA ARE FINISHED, TOO, NOW...
DAMN IT... DAMN IT ALL ...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...? YOU LOOK HAPPY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE ...
I SUP-POSE SO...
HMPH... BUT YOU WERE ALL WIPED OUT, JUST AS WE PLANNED ...
TWICE NOW.
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO HAS EMBRACED ME...
COLUMBINE, YOU WANTED A MAN TO EMBRACE YOU, DIDN'T YOU...?
SO WHAT IF I DID?

A WON-DERFUL MAN WITH A WON-DERFUL SMILE.
THE MAN WHO DEFE-ATED YOU ...
HIS NAME IS NARUMI.
YES.
SO... I AM HAPPY...
YOU... LOVE NARUMI, DO YOU ...?

...THAT'S NICE...
FU...


FIVE SECONDS LEFT!
I ENVY YOU ...
YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU KNOW ...

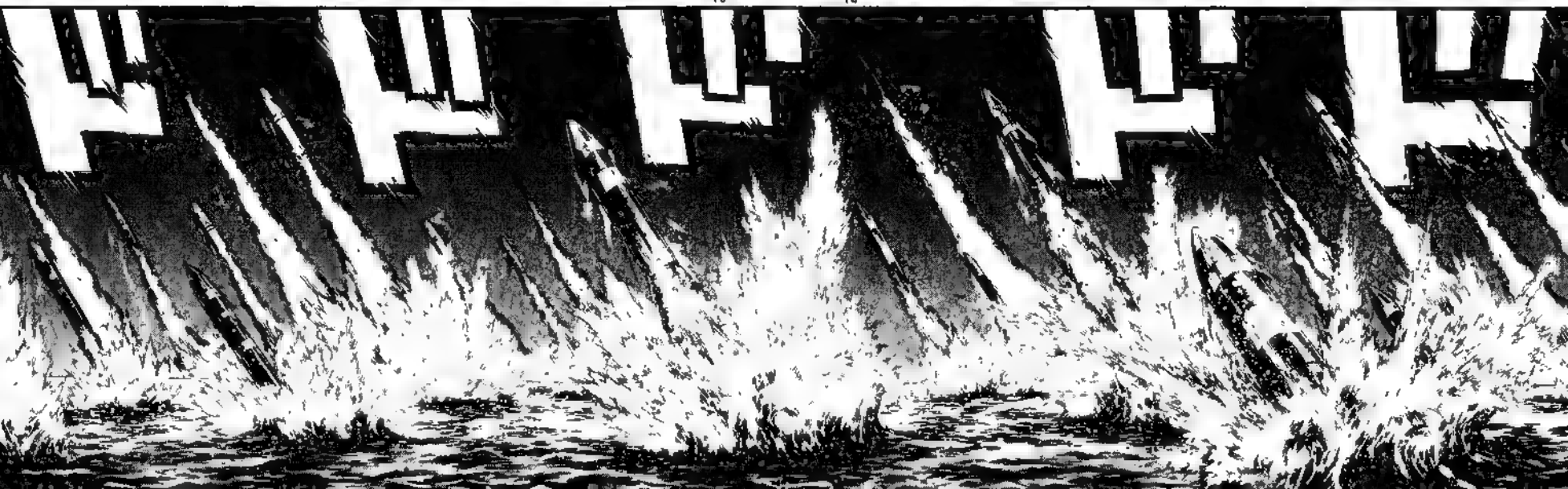
IT ALL ENDS HERE AND NOW!!
1 !
2 !
DEFEATING HER WILL STOP ALL THE OTHER AUTOMATA.
3 !
THE ONE WHO CAUSED ALL OF THIS.
THE RULER OF THE AUTOMATA ...
4 !
THAT'S THE DOLL FRANCINE, RIGHT THERE.

フオコオオオ

15

FIRING!
FIRE THE FIRST WAVE OF MESCALEPTOR MULTI-WARHEAD MISSILES!

14



16

SFX: CLICKING

LUCILLE, EVERY-BODY... WATCH THIS!
IT'S FINALLY OVER!
HU-MAN.
I AM PLEA-SED ...
TO MAKE YOUR ACQU-AINT-ANCE ..
BYE, NOW.
SAME HERE.
17
THAT LADY FRANCINE ...
IT WAS IN... THE YEAR 1909 ...

BUILT BY LADY FRAN-CINE.

I AM A DOLL

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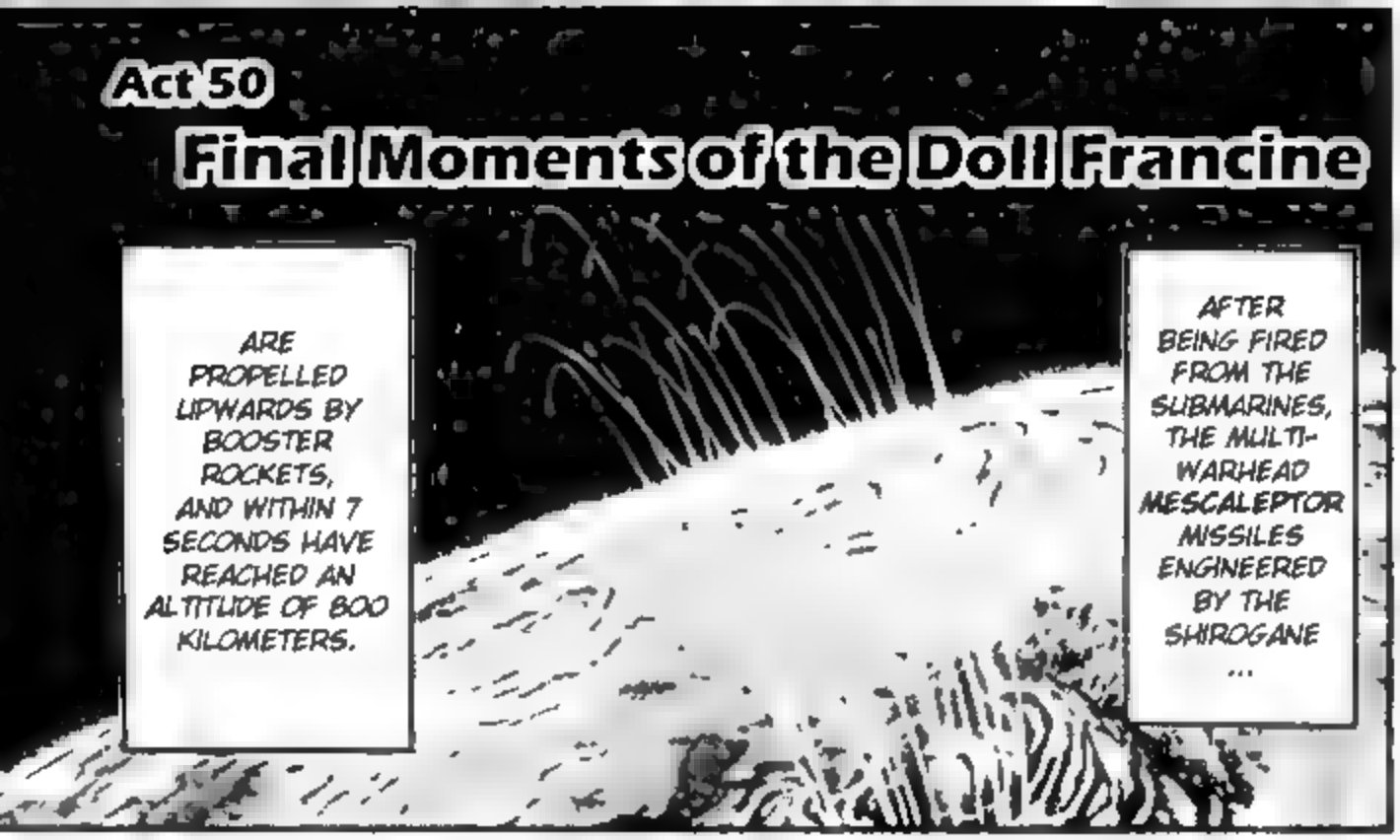
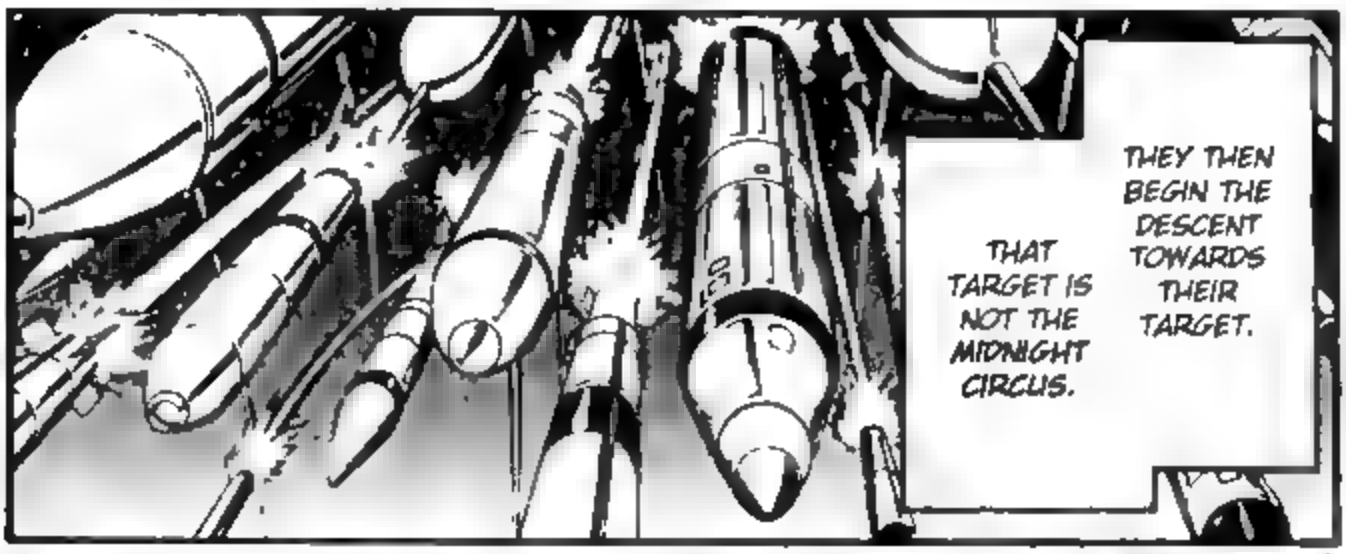
Act 50
Final Moments of the Doll Francine


ARE PROPELLED UPWARDS BY BOOSTER ROCKETS, AND WITHIN 7 SECONDS HAVE REACHED AN ALTITUDE OF 800 KILOMETERS.
AFTER BEING FIRED FROM THE SUBMARINES, THE MULTI-WARHEAD MESCALEPTOR MISSILES ENGINEERED BY THE SHIROGANE ...

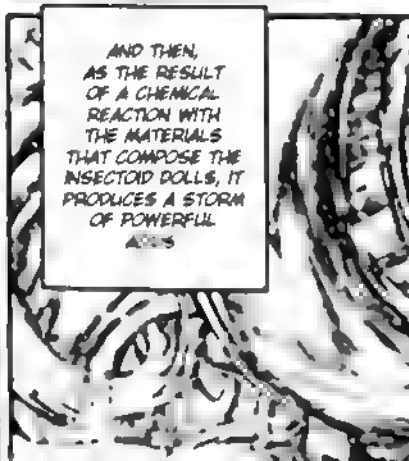


1

MESCALEPTOR IS A VISCOUS AND HIGHLY CORROSIVE AGENT. BY THE TIME IT REACHES AN ALTITUDE OF 200 KM, THIS SUBSTANCE, HAVING PERMEATED THE ATMOSPHERE...

AT AN ALTITUDE OF 200 KM IS A SILVER SMOKE ENSHROUDING THE TENT THAT IS CAPABLE OF NULLIFYING ANY MISSILES. THIS IS THEIR TARGET.

第50幕 フランシーヌ人形の最期

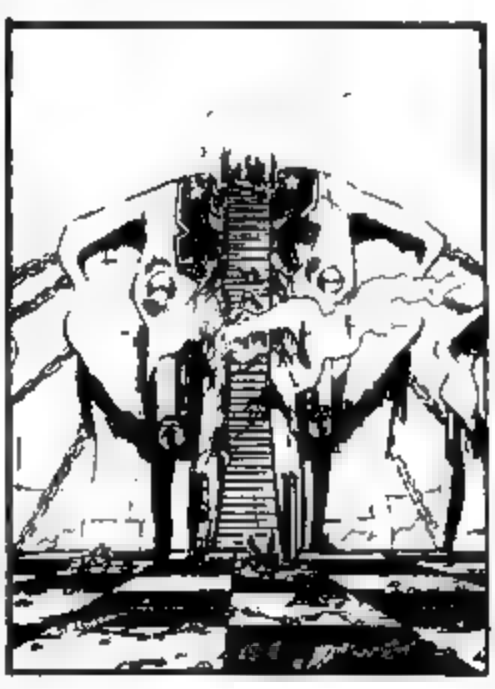


ゴオオオオオオ
IT LOOKS LIKE... THE ATTACK'S STARTED.
SEVERAL MORE WILL COME. THEY'LL GO ON UNTIL ALL OF THE SILVER SMOKE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ATMOSPHERE.
AND THEN THE REAL ONSLAUGHT WILL BEGIN ...

THAT'S ALL I NEED.
ONCE MING-HAI DESTROYS THE DOLL FRANCINE, ALL OF THIS WILL BE OVER.

I'M SORRY, MING-XIA. YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN ALL OF THIS EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOT A SHIRO-GANE...
DON'T BE SILLY, ROCKEN-FIELD. THIS WAS MY DECISION. I'M READY FOR IT.

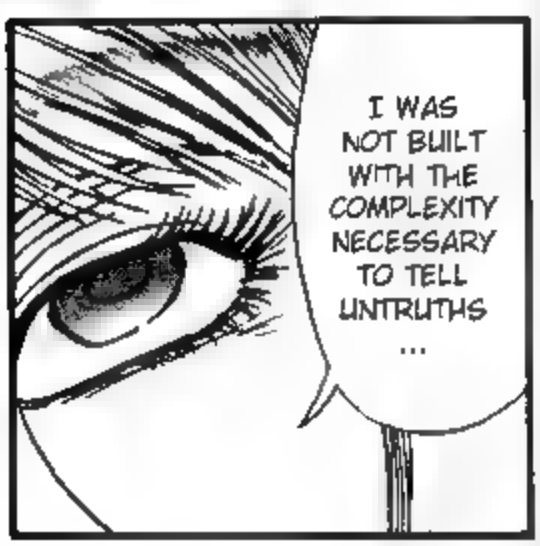
WHAT ...



オオオ
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

5

DON'T... DON'T YOU LIE TO ME!


I WAS NOT BUILT WITH THE COMPLEXITY NECESSARY TO TELL UNTRUTHS ...

I WAS ...
BUILT BY LADY FRANCINE 90 YEARS AGO.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, DOLL FRANCINE?!

AND ...
EVEN NOW, I CAN RECALL THE DAY I WAS BUILT.
AND DISAPPEARED FROM THIS TENT...
THAT NIGHT WHEN LADY FRANCINE TRANSFERRED THIS ROLE TO ME...

ゴオオ

IF YOU PLEASE.
OPEN YOUR EYES ...

FROM NOW ON, YOUR NAME SHALL BE FRANCINE.

ゴオオ

VERY WELL. MY NAME IS ...
FRAN-CINE.
SFX: CREAKING
I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING NOW FOR NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS.
LEADING THE AUTOMATA OF THIS MIDNIGHT CIRCUS...

BECAUSE I BUILT THEM TO DO SO.
THEY TRY SO MANY DIFFERENT METHODS TO MAKE ME SMILE.
EVERY ONE OF THEM ADORES ME, REVERES ME...
HOW-EVER ...
AND SO, HOPING THAT I WOULD GAIN THE ABILITY TO SMILE, I ENTRUSTED THAT DUTY TO THEM.
MY MASTER, BY WHOM I MYSELF WAS BUILT, HATED ME FOR BEING UNABLE TO SMILE, AND ABANDONED ME.
WHAT HUMANS CALL GROWING TIRED
PER-HAPS THIS IS...
MY BODY HAS GROWN SLOWER OF LATE ...
I REMAIN UNABLE TO SMILE.
AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH SUFFERING I WATCH THE AUTOMATA VISIT UPON HUMANS...
NO MATTER WHERE WE TRAVEL, MY CREATOR IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
AS HAVE MY THOU-GHTS ...

I...
HAVE DECIDED TO EXTINGUISH MYSELF FROM THIS WORLD
THE DAY WILL MOST LIKELY COME WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND FOR YOURSELF
WHAT REASON HAVE YOU TO DO SO?
...I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, MISTRESS.
PLEASE LOVE THEM, AND CARE FOR THEM.
YOU MUST BECOME THE RINGMASTER OF THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS, AND CONTINUE TRAVELING WITH THEM.
BUT IF YOU LEAVE US, MISTRESS, THE OTHER DOLLS WILL BE MOST DISTRESSED THEY WILL HAVE NO REASON TO GO ON.
THAT IS WHY YOU SHALL TAKE MY PLACE FROM THIS DAY FORTH.

YES... AUTOMATA ARE BUILT SO AS TO BE INCAPABLE OF AIDING ME IN ANY SUCH ACT
BUT HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO "EXTINGUISH" YOURSELF?
...I MOST CERTAINLY SHALL.
I HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING THROUGH OUR LONG BATTLE WITH THE SHIROGANE.
THEN... YOU CAN'T MEAN...
BUT... SHIROGANE ARE NOT...
IF I SEEK OUT THESE HUMANS, WHO HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED THE STRUCTURES AND WEAKNESSES OF THE AUTOMATA...
THEY WILL BE QUITE HAPPY TO DISMANTLE AND EXTINGUISH ME.
ALL OF THE MARIONETTES USED BY THE SHIROGANE...
ARE PRODUCED BY A GROUP OF PUPPET-BUILDERS IN THE ORIENT
...I SEE. SO YOU WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE IT TO THEM, RATHER THAN BE TORN TO BITS BY SOME SHIROGANE'S MARIONETTE...

BUT...
I WAS NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND LADY FRANCINE'S FEELINGS.
IF I DO, THEN I MAY PERHAPS COME TO UNDERSTAND THE HEART OF MY CREATOR...
THESE HUMANS WHO BUILD PUPPETS.
THE REASON IS MORE THAT I WISH TO MEET THEM...
YOU MAY RELY UPON ME COMPLETELY
AND SO, I BID HER FAREWELL.
NOW THEN... I LEAVE IT TO YOU.
LADY FRANCINE DEPARTED WITHOUT LOOKING BACK...
OUTSIDE WAS A STORMY SEA.

BECAME FRANCINE.
AND I...

IT IS ...
MOST UN-FOR-TU-NATE ...

EVEN IF I BEAT YOU, ZONAPHA SYNDROME WON'T GO AWAY, WILL IT...?
ZO-NAPHA SYN-DROME ...

BUT I...
AM NOT THE ONE YOU SEEK.

WHERE... WHERE DID SHE GO?
THE REAL LADY FRANCINE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE METHOD OF STOPPING THE INSECTS THAT SPREAD IT.
THAT IS CORRECT.
HEY! WHERE DID FRANCINE GO?
IF EVER A SHIROGANE STANDS BEFORE YOU WHO HAS DEFEATED LES QUATRE PIONNIERS ...
THE LAST THING THAT LADY FRANCINE TOLD ME WAS THIS.

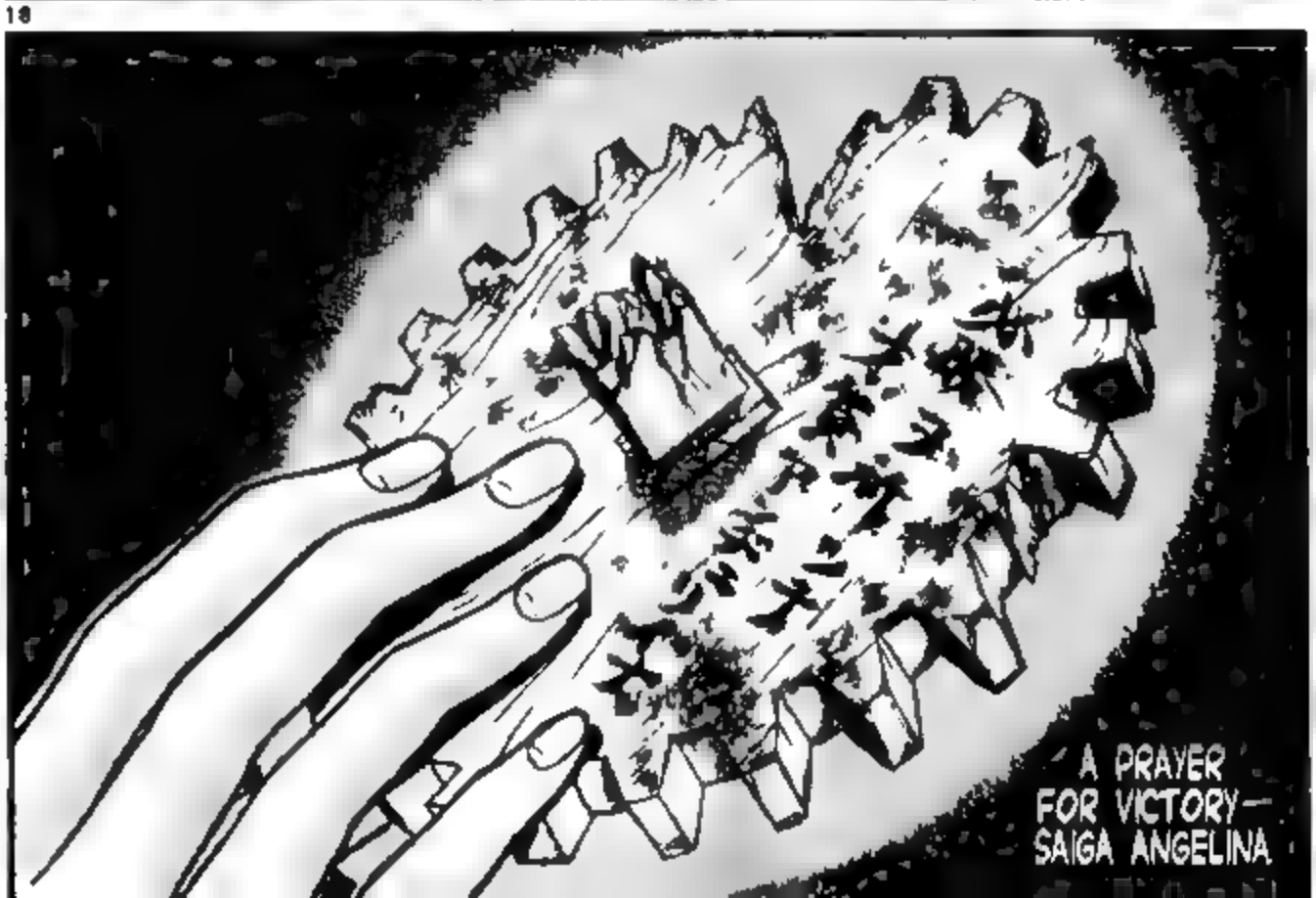
HEY! ANSWER ME!
AND AT THAT TIME, YOUR ACTIONS SHALL CEASE PERMANENTLY ...
AT THAT TIME, YOUR DUTY HAS COME TO AN END.

14 SFX: KLIK KLIK KLIK

NEI-
THER
I...
NOR
LADY
FRAN-
CINE...
WERE
EVER...
ABLE TO
IMITATE
YOU...
LAUGH-
TER AND
SMILES
...
SFX: KLIK KLIK
H-
HEY
...!
TRAVELING
WITH THE
DOLLS...
WHO TRY
TO MAKE
ME SMILE
...
HAS
MADE
MY BODY
AND MY
MIND...
SO VERY
SLOW...
THOUGH
WE COULD
NEVER...
BE HUMAN
...
SFX: KLK KLK WHIRRR
WHERE
IS
FRAN-
CINE
?!
NA...
RU...
MI.
FARE
...
WELL
...
AND
SO...
I AM...
HAPPY
THAT...
THIS
DAY...
HAS
COME.
I
TOO...
HAVE
GROWN...
TIRED.

SFX: KLI—

18



〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成13年38号より47号まで〉

Ending Bonus

Will you take a peek at just a few examples?

I want to draw everywhere, all the time.

My drawing bug isn't just limited to work.

Katou Narumi

カトウナルミ

Lucille Verneuil

ルシール ベルヌイユ

スケッチブックに筆ペンとボールペンで
Done in sketchbook with fude brush pen and ballpoint pen

Liáng Míngxiá

梁・ミンシア

Done in notebook
with fine-liner pen
and ballpoint pen

ノートに ミリペンと ボールペンで

ペラペラの紙に　つけペンで

Done on tracing paper with fine-liner pen トレーシングペーパーに ミリペンで

That's all.
おしまい.

See you in volume 22!
22巻(かん)で おあいしましょう!

トイレットペーパーに 血で……(ウソよ)
Done on toilet paper in blood... (just kidding)

からくりサーカス㉑

少年サンデーコミックス

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.